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Nurses' strike seems preempted

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Monday appeared to have preempted a strike by nurses by reassuring them of his government's commitment to their welfare. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Mr. Kabariti met with a delegation representing the Jordanian Nursing Association (JNA) and promised to "restructure the health sector and reconsider the regulations related to incentives and promotions" — key demands of the association, which said Sunday it would start a work stoppage as of Wednesday if the demands were not met. JNA President Hashem Salameh told Petra after the meeting that "we appreciate the prime minister's efforts to solve our problem and meet our demands."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Netanyahu: Talks planned with King, Mubarak soon to strengthen peace process

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI PRIME Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu called Monday for quick talks with the leaders of Jordan and Egypt to "pursue and strengthen" the peace process, but he made no offer to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. "Achieving peace with security was not just a campaign slogan but is a goal," Mr. Netanyahu told a meeting of the 32 deputies elected to parliament last week on the state headed up by his right-wing Likud Party. "We intend to pursue and strengthen the peace process and accordingly I hope to meet as soon as possible with King Hussein and President (Hosni) Mubarak," he said. "This is what I've told (U.S. President Bill) Clinton as well as President Mubarak and King Hussein," he said. "It is also the message that I instructed my political adviser, Dore Gold, to transmit to Arafat's deputy," Mahmoud Abbas, he said. Mr. Arafat was scheduled to meet Wednesday with King Hussein and Mr. Mubarak in Aqaba to discuss how to pursue peace efforts following the Israeli elec-

tions. Mr. Mubarak met in Cairo Monday with Syrian president Hafez Al Assad and the two voiced pessimism over prospects for the peace process in the light of Mr. Netanyahu's election victory over Labour Prime Minister Shimon Peres (see separate story). Mr. Netanyahu insisted Monday that "reactions from around the world have been positive" to the Likud victory, citing a message he had received from Mr. Mubarak via Egypt's ambassador to Israel, Mohammed Bassiuni. "There is a wait-and-see attitude around the world, an opening to us," he said. David Levy, a moderate who held the number two spot on the Likud slate of candidates and who is considered virtually certain to regain the post of foreign minister he held under the last right-wing government in 1988-1992, also put the stress on peace in remarks to the meeting. "Our side wants peace, don't forget that we were the first to make peace," he said, referring to the 1979 Camp David accord with Egypt which was signed by a Likud government.

"We have returned to power in order to fix what needs fixing in the peace process, without being dreamers and in keeping our feet on the ground," he said. "But don't be mistaken, we have a lot of very hard work ahead of us... many difficult trials await us," he said. Just how difficult the task will be was underscored when Mr. Levy was followed to the podium by Rafael Eitan, leader of the ultra-nationalist Tzomet Party who held the number three slot on the Likud slate. "It was important that we won the election to save Eretz Israel," he said, referring to a "greater Israel" stretching from the Jordan River and including the occupied West Bank. In other remarks, Mr. Netanyahu, whose aide began detailed consultations earlier Monday with six religious and right-wing parties on forming a coalition government (see page 12), declined to give a specific date for announcing his cabinet and programme. "We could even use the whole 45 days allowed by

(Continued on page 7)

Kabariti launches dialogue with JPA on draft legislation

By Samir Hijawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti met Monday with president and members of the board of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) to discuss a controversial draft law that would govern the work of the association and which the Ministry Of Information has referred to the cabinet for endorsement. The JPA decided after the meeting, which the Jordan News Agency, Petra said led to an agreement on continuing dialogue aimed at a joint drafting of the draft law, in service of the journalistic profession and the country, to cancel a sit-in it had planned to stage in front of the Prime Ministry Tuesday to protest the draft legislation. Sources in the association board said that they emerged from the meeting with the prime minister with the understanding that he would "freeze" the Cabinet discussion of the draft law until after the government and the association board

have finalised their discussion of it. But Minister of Information Marwan Musher asserted that the prime minister did not make any such promise and the cabinet's discussion of the draft law would continue. Dr. Musher told the Jordan Times that the prime minister told the JPA delegation that the government would continue dialogue with the JPA board members and listen to their suggestions but the Cabinet's discussion of the draft legislation would go on. The meeting with Mr. Kabariti came one day after Dr. Musher refused a JPA board request to withdraw the draft law from the Cabinet, offering instead that he and the JPA president meet jointly with the judiciary committee of the Lower House of Parliament, to which the draft law would be referred after endorsement by the cabinet, to discuss the JPA's proposals on the new law. But the JPA board rejected the proposal and decided to

(Continued on page 7)

King reiterates his full confidence in Kabariti

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday voiced "full confidence" in the government of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and the steps it is taking to address all national issues. King Hussein said in a meeting with editors of daily and weekly newspapers in the presence of Mr. Kabariti at the Royal Court that "our democratic march is a process to which we are committed, and we will do everything we can to protect it so that it becomes a model (for others)." The democratic march is one of the sources of the strength of the country, the King said. He also stressed as a "sacred duty" the Kingdom's commitment to the respect of human rights, urging journalists to steer away from pessimism and publishing "liable, slanderous and harmful material" and prevent the enemies of democracy from harming the process "in the name of democracy."



"We want our press to be one of enlightened opinions and intellectualism and its voice to be heard all over the world," the King said. On the peace process, the King said: "There is no reason for pessimism and Jordan will remain committed to its stand in support of the Palestinian rights on the Palestinian soil."

He stressed that Jordan never compromised over any part of the Palestinian soil. In the meeting, Jordan Press Association President Sulaiman Qudus spoke of the need to draft a "charter of honour" that will define the ethics and practice of journalism in the country within the frame work of the association's law.

Education in Islam, Christianity has much in common — Crown Prince

By Ghaila Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Monday stressed the importance of the educational system in Islam and Christianity and said it was "basically a teaching system founded on the transfer of sciences, knowledge disciplines, experiences, morals and customs from one generation to another." In an inaugural speech of the first session of the Muslim-Christian consultation on "The Educational System in Islam and Christianity," Prince Hassan said: "The values of education in Islam and Christianity are akin to each other regarding their outlook to God, man and the universe, and all of us shoulder a serious responsibility to eliminate causes of mutual dislike and hatred that are fostered by textbooks. The trust we hold and which we have to work together to convey is to keep our future generations away from seeds of aversion

and conflict that are so common in some disciplines and particularly in audiovisual aids," he said. Prince Hassan added: "We must view learning as the major instrument for giving future generations an upbringing based on true faith, fraternity, philanthropy and universal justice and freedom." Citing Koranic verses and sayings by the Prophet Mohammad, the Prince stressed that Islam encourages and promotes the pursuit of knowledge and scientific achievements. The holy Koran is full of expressions that promote the seeking of knowledge, he said. "God has sharply censured those who claim to be learned, particularly those who do not really possess any genuine source of methodology of learning," he said. "There are also many Prophetic traditions which indicate that a little useful learning is better than a great deal of excessive worship," he said.

"It is Islam learning does not mean mere memorisation of bits of information without comprehension and assimilation. Since the Prophet Mohammad's time, learning was a combination of memorisation, thinking, understanding, discussion and activation of the mind," he said. The meeting, which is organised by the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al Bayt Foundation) in cooperation with the Orthodox Centre in Switzerland, brought together 50 Muslim and Christian participants from all over the world, who addressed the educational system from both Muslim and Christian perspectives. Four Muslim and Christian specialists presented papers on "The Philosophy of Education in Islam," "The Philosophy of Education in Christianity" and "The Problems of Education in Modern Society."

(Continued on page 7)

Jordan reserving judgement until Netanyahu announces programme

By P.V.Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is waiting for the Israeli premier-elect, Benjamin Netanyahu, to form a government and announce his political programme before passing judgement on what the future of the Mideast peace process might be. Information Minister Marwan Musher said Monday. At the same time, Jordan sees as positive Mr. Netanyahu's public declaration on Sunday that he was committed to pursuing the peace process regardless

of his pre-election pronouncements. Dr. Musher told journalists at his regular weekly press briefing. "Election promises are one thing and government policy programmes are something else," said Dr. Musher. "What is relevant to us is the formal policy programme that the new government will present. We shall draw our conclusions from that programme." During the run-up to last Wednesday's election, Mr. Netanyahu promised voters that he would not allow more than autonomy to the

Palestinians, would not return the Golan Heights to Syria and would help expand Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territories — positions seen to impose insurmountable hurdles in the peace process. Dr. Musher, however, referred to the Israeli premier-elect's first public statement on Sunday after his election victory that he was committed to pursuing the peace process with the Palestinians and other Arabs. Mr. Netanyahu "has already indicated that he is committed to pursuing the

(Continued on page 7)

Government welcomes poll finding, says it set basics for assessment

By P.V.Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Information Minister Marwan Musher said Monday an opinion poll finding that the approval rating of the government had fallen since it took office was hypothetical. But, he said, the survey results had set a basic foundation for all future assessment of the performance of the executive authority. According to Dr. Musher, the findings of a similar survey taken when the government of Abdul Karim Kabariti entered office in February were based on expectations of the public rather than the actual performance of the government. As such, he said, those figures were only hypothesis based on public expectations. "Whenever a government is formed, the public attaches great expectations to its performance, and is only natural that those expectations would fall once

the executive authority begins implementing its programmes, he noted. As such, Dr. Musher said the finding of the latest opinion poll, conducted by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan in mid-May, was favourable to the government and should be the basis for any further similar assessment. "The results of the opinion poll are good and favourable" to the government, he told a weekly briefing for the press, stressing that the survey's findings should be viewed in totality and not through its individual components. Despite the fall in the approval rating of the government, the percentage of public endorsement of the government in the first 100 days in office as the polls showed is high, the minister asserted. For instance, he said, those who saw the government was capable of shouldering its

(Continued on page 7)

Syria gives negative assessment of chances for peace under Netanyahu

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hafez Al Assad of Syria ruled out new peace talks with Israel on Monday until his new prime minister makes his positions clear. "The resumption of the negotiations is out of the question now," Mr. Assad said at a news conference in Cairo after nearly three hours of talks with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. "Things are not going in a positive way. We have to be fully alert and on guard," he said. The rare public remarks by the Syrian president were his first since Benjamin Netanyahu was elected Israel's

prime minister. Apprehension has gripped the Arab World since Mr. Netanyahu's victory, particularly over his campaign promises to take a harder line in negotiations with the Palestinians and Syria. Mr. Assad's comment seemed to indicate that Mr. Netanyahu's election would indeed slow the peace process, although the talks have made little progress since they began in 1991 and were suspended after a rash of suicide bombings in Israel this spring. Syria and Lebanon are Israel's only neighbours who have yet to conclude an

agreement with the Jewish state. Mr. Assad has demanded the return of the Golan Heights, which Israel seized in the 1967 Mideast war, as part of any treaty. Mr. Netanyahu has promised not to give up the territory, saying it is too strategic to Israel's security. That position marks a break from his predecessor, Shimon Peres, who seemed prepared to withdraw from the plateau in exchange for peace. Lebanon's negotiations with Israel are deadlocked, too. They are not expected to

(Continued on page 7)


Bahrain says it foiled Iran-backed coup bid

MANAMA (Agencies) — Bahrain said Monday it has arrested a group of Iranian-trained militants who allegedly plotted a revolution against the government, prompting Manama to recall its ambassador from Tehran. A total of 29 people confessed last month to a judge here that they belonged to a group called Hizbollah Bahrain, founded in the Iranian holy city of Qom in 1993, Information Minister Mohammad Ibrahim Al Mutawa told a press conference.

Bahraini authorities also seized light weapons linked to the plot, he said after what he described as an emergency cabinet meeting. The group trained "under the guidance and with the full financial and resource backing of the Iranian authorities and the intelligence department of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps," Mr. Mutawa said. Bahraini recruits were trained in the use of weapons and explosives on a series of courses held at Iranian Revolutionary Guard

Corps camps in Iran before moving to Hizbollah camps in Lebanon," he said. Hizbollah Bahrain aimed to recruit 3,000 persons, he said. An investigation was continuing. It was the first time a Bahraini minister had not only publicly accused Iran of fomenting 18 months of anti-government unrest here, but also detailed charges against it. "The movement's main aim is to stage an armed

(Continued on page 7)




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Netanyahu talks peace — but his supporters want a tougher line

By Dianna Cahn
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — In a conciliatory victory speech, Benjamin Netanyahu pledged to pursue peace with the Arabs, urged unity in a divided Israel and lavished praise on outgoing Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

But the prime minister-elect seemed a bit out of synch with the thousands of euphoric supporters who crowded a Jerusalem convention hall Sunday to celebrate the end of four years in opposition. They cheered for a tough line on security, booed at the very mention of peace-maker Peres and listened politely to the words of peace.

"Tonight I extend the hand of peace to all Arab leaders and to our Palestinian neighbours," said Mr. Netanyahu, whose address was carried live by Cable News Network, the British Broadcasting Corporation, and Arab satellite channels.

"We plan to advance the process of dialogue with all our neighbours in order to achieve stable peace, real peace, peace with security," he said.

A jubilant crowd chanted "Bibi, king of Israel," referring to Mr. Netanyahu by his nickname, as the 46-year-old U.S.-educated leader stood with his wife Sarah waving from the stage.

The militant mood in the audience of Likud Party activists — many of whom carried signs vilifying Israel's liberal media — underscored the difficulties Mr. Netanyahu will face from within his own ranks should he abandon Likud's traditional "hardline" stance and embrace the outgoing government's peace-making.

The audience chanted demands for the appointment as defence minister of tough-talking Ariel Sharon, a former general and who as defence minister under Menachem Begin masterminded the 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Mr. Sharon says he would never speak to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Netanyahu has suggested he would choose a far more moderate figure for the job, like reserve General Yitzhak Mordechai Ehud Olmert.

Mr. Netanyahu won the May 29 vote with a campaign that blamed Mr. Peres for being soft on the Arabs and not preventing attacks that have killed some 200 Israelis in the past three years.

Although he was a bitter foe of the 1993 Israel-PLO accord, Mr. Netanyahu in recent months said he accepts the Palestinian autonomy it established in the West Bank and Gaza and

would continue talks with the PLO on a final peace deal.

The chances that such talks could be successful seem dimmed, however, by Mr. Netanyahu's pledges to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state. He has also suggested he would give Israeli troops a freer hand in operating in PLO-ruled areas — likely to be seen as a violation of the existing accords.

Mr. Netanyahu pledged Sunday to strengthen relations with Jordan and Egypt, which already have peace treaties with Israel, and to pursue new agreements with other Arab states.

But he avoided mention of the Palestinian demand for statehood and made no specific policy statements on issues his government will face immediately, like the planned troop pullout from Hebron.

Mr. Peres' cabinet on Sunday announced it would leave the pullout from the West Bank town — which Israel has promised by mid-June — to Mr. Netanyahu. Mr. Peres had originally agreed to withdraw the troops by March 28, but delayed it following a series of suicide bombings by Palestinian militants in Israel.

Israel Radio said Palestinian officials criticised his speech Sunday for not answering difficult questions. Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, said the speech "awakened concern," the radio said.

Later Sunday, Mr. Netanyahu met with Egypt's ambassador to Israel and discussed a possible meeting with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, Israel Radio said.

On Sunday, Mr. Netanyahu aides began sounding out potential coalition partners, including the much-strengthened religious parties. One religious negotiator said the new government would move to shut businesses on the Jewish Sabbath and ban the import of non-kosher meat.

The new Knesset will convene June 17 and Mr. Netanyahu hopes to form his new government by then, Israel radio said. Mr. Netanyahu has 45 days to present his government for majority approval in the Knesset.

The new Israeli leader was careful Sunday to appease religious and secular alike. He promised to preserve the status quo on issues of religion, while making frequent references to religious themes during his 30-minute speech.

Mr. Netanyahu urged a deeply divided Israeli society — he won by less than one percent of the vote — to stand united.

"The most important peace that must be made is peace at home," he said.



JAPANESE VISITORS TO TUNISIA: Prince Takamado (centre) of Japan and his wife (left) are welcomed at Tunis' Carthage airport by Tunisian Interior Minister Mohammad Jgham (right). The Prince and Princess are on an official four-day visit to Tunisia. They are due in Amman this week to attend a Japan Week in Jordan (Reuters photo)

McDonald's, nightlife targets of newly powerful religious Israelis

By Ron Kampeas
The Associated Press

ISRAELI religious parties, bolstered by their best-ever showing in parliamentary elections, took aim Sunday at McDonald's and its non-kosher menus, as well as a litany of other recent incursions into the sovereignty of Jewish law.

"We must turn this (election) upheaval into an upheaval of values," said Haim Miller, an ultra-orthodox Jerusalem municipal councillor. "They may have their clientele, but I won't have McDonald's open non-kosher outlets in Jerusalem."

Challenger Benjamin Netanyahu, who advocates a harder line with the Palestinians, edged out peace process architect Prime Minister Shimon Peres in last week's election.

But the real victors were the religious, whose representation in the parliament jumped from 16 to 23 seats. Mr. Netanyahu needs their support to rule.

Secular Israelis, who have enjoyed seven years of freedom to party on Friday nights, were on the defensive as the pious sought to enshrine religious law in legislation.

"I would suggest that no one even thinks of closing

McDonald's or Burger King in this city," Tel Aviv Mayor Roni Milo, who is from Mr. Netanyahu's Likud Party, told Israel TV. "What is operating here will continue to operate here, even on Friday or the Sabbath."

Each side insisted on maintaining what has become known as the "status quo" in Israel — the unofficial relations between secular and religious — with each having its own interpretation of what that meant.

"There will be no touching the status quo, which I believe includes much culture and art and nightlife," Milo said.

Rabbi Avraham Ravitz argued that the status quo had been eroded in recent years. "Nightlife, nightclubs, this is not the culture of our fathers," he said.

Once, the "status quo" referred to an unwritten set of principles that varied from city to city. In occupied Jerusalem, cinemas, nightclubs and theatres were shut down over the Sabbath, and only a limited number of restaurants were permitted to open.

But in 1989, a cinema owner challenged the "status quo" in court and won. That opened the floodgates for others to open over the

Sabbath. The 1989 decision was made when Mr. Netanyahu's Likud Party was in power. But when the more pronouncedly secular Labour Party won power in 1992 and then split with its only religious coalition partner in 1993, the unprecedented happened for the first time in Israeli history, the religious were out of power.

That government, said National Religious Party leader Zevulun Hammer, controlled just 61 out of the parliament's 120 seats. "It said with 61 votes I can do what I want and oppress another part of the public," he said.

Several cases concerning the status of reform Jews reached the supreme court during the Labour government. The court ruled that reform conversions should be recognised, among other things.

"That was anathema to the orthodox, who revere the status quo as representing the worst excesses of Western liberalism."

Rabbi Ravitz said he saw the decisions as necessitating legislative change.

In occupied Jerusalem, which has a large religious community, an increasing number of non-kosher restaurants have been established. But the highest-pro-

file change probably came when McDonald's opened a two-story non-kosher restaurant in central Jerusalem, sparking religious demonstrations.

"Jerusalem has a character, the Holy City," Mr. Miller told Israel radio. "It's not like Rome or Paris — or other cities in this country which have unfortunately opened non-kosher restaurants."

"Let them make kosher hamburgers," he suggested. McDonald's uses kosher beef, but makes cheeseburgers. Mixing milk and meat is against Jewish religious law. Forget it, said McDonald's general manager for Israel, Omri Padan.

"I'll open a kosher restaurant in Jerusalem," he offered. But he would not close the non-kosher branch. "According to the existing laws, they can't close us."

In any case, Mr. Padan said, he was not worried the new government would change the laws.

"It's test will be a peace agreement with Syria," he told Israel radio, "not hamburgers vs. cheeseburgers."

Mr. Netanyahu, in his victory speech Sunday night, was ambiguous. "We are clearly maintaining the status quo," he said,

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sudan to push for better ties with gulf

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan will launch a diplomatic push to improve its relations with Arab states, particularly in the Gulf, a senior official said, quoted in the government daily Al Engaz Al Watani on Monday. "The coming period will see a continued effort for improving Sudanese-Arab relations, with emphasis on the Gulf, Saudi Arabia and Egypt," said Ahmad Abdul Rahman Mohammad. The head of the international people's friendship council, a government agency, was speaking on his return from Saudi Arabia where he discussed mending fences and also met Sudanese opposition figures in exile.

19 opposition members arrested in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudanese security forces have arrested 19 people for involvement in a plot against the government led by the opposition in exile, the government daily Al Engaz Al Watani reported Monday. Some of the suspects were arrested as they tried to cross from Sudan into an unnamed country, while the others were rounded up from their homes in Khartoum and Kessala town on the Eritrean border, the paper said. The suspects, all colleagues from work or school, were charged with "conspiracy to wage war against the state and undermine the constitution," said government prosecutor Adel Abdul Wahhab, quoted by the paper. Two of those arrested had recruited cadres for the opposition in exile, the paper said without specifying when the arrests took place. Eritrea has openly supported the Sudanese National Assembly (SNA), an opposition coalition.

Children should be beaten: Shas leader

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The spiritual leader of Israel's ultra-orthodox Shas party, a likely coalition partner of Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu, has said he supports hitting children to discipline them, public radio reported Monday. Ovadia Yosef, a rabbi with the party representing Israel's Sephardic or Eastern Jews that took 10 seats from last week's elections, said in a religious pronouncement that a father who does not hit an errant son "is giving him a bad education." "We don't have to hit children in a cruel and severe manner, but we should beat them a little to control them." But his educational advice was attacked by the head of the Committee for the Defence of Children, Yitzhak Kadman. "These are scandalous proposals which contravene Judaism, and children are at risk of being the victims," Mr. Kadman told the radio.

S. Arabia beheads Filipino for murder

RIYADH (AP) — A Filipino convicted of murdering three people, including two children, was publicly beheaded Sunday. The interior ministry identified the executed convict as Jesus Pinto. Seven people — Pinto, an Indian and five Saudis — have been executed so far this year in the kingdom. On Friday, an executioner had beheaded four Saudis convicted of bombing a joint U.S.-Saudi military facility in Riyadh on Nov. 13, killing five Americans and two Indians and injuring 60 people. So far this year, the rate of executions in the kingdom has slowed sharply, compared to last year when there were 80 executions in the first five months of the year. A record 192 people were beheaded in 1995, drawing condemnation from international human-rights groups. Most of them were Asians and Africans convicted of drug-related crimes. It is not clear why there has been such a marked drop in executions. The Interior Ministry said Pinto was convicted of stabbing to death five-year-old boy Abdul Rahman Al Manee'a, his two-year-old sister Yara and their Indonesian maid. The report did not give the nationalities of the children, indicating they were Saudis.

Iraqi authorities crack down on bootleg cola and ice cream

By Farouk Choukri
Agence France Presse

Baghdad (AFP) — The Iraqi authorities have destroyed thousands of kilograms of bootleg ice cream, pastries and colas in a crackdown aimed at curbing the spread of disease.

After the UN embargo was imposed in August 1990, Baghdad banned the sale of ice cream, pastry, and chocolate to cut consumption of sugar which it rationed along with other basic food items.

But the authorities said

they must now crack down on bootleggers who have caused an increase in typhoid, cholera and diarrhea among children by failing to use clean equipment and water in their unregulated production process.

"Health department officials have launched a broad campaign to prevent the sale of ice cream and refreshments in the capital and other areas," a Health Ministry official, doctor Mahdi Al Saadoun, told the official press.

These teams destroyed in

the space of several days around 11,000 kilograms of ice cream, as well as 2,540 kilograms of pastry and 2,355 bottles of home-made cola. Dr. Saadoun said.

"The most important diseases caused by these ice creams and other deserts are high fever, diarrhoea, headache, cholera, dehydration, stomach infections, and liver infections," Dr. Saadoun said.

"Prevention consists of avoiding these things," he said.

Iraqi television has joined

the campaign with daily spots, calling on Iraqis not to buy ice cream and refreshments from street vendors, warning them of the danger of disease.

Medicine is difficult to find and hospitals have been reduced to a minimum because the government says the sanctions have deprived it of the revenue and funds to import medicine and other humanitarian supplies.

"It's not true that we don't respect hygiene rules. The reason for the ban is short supply which has increased

the price of sugar," said an ice cream vendor in Palestine Street, a main avenue in downtown Baghdad.

"Many large restaurants serve spoiled food and cases of poisoning have been reported, but nobody speaks of it," according to the vendor, who asked not to be named.

Prices of sugar have shot up as Iraqis increase the production of home-made ice cream with the arrival of the hot summer, when temperatures hit 40 degrees Celsius or more.

One kilogramme of sugar

now sells for 450 dinars, up from 300 dinars last month while the average salary is around 3,000 dinars. One dollar fetches about 800 dinars on the free market.

Although imports of soft drinks and chocolate have been banned since the embargo was imposed, the government for the last few months has allowed a privately owned company to sell cola for 175 dinars per bottle.

But home-made cola, which is recognised by its unusually sweet taste, is also sold in Baghdad.

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20:30	Doc — Deep Probe Expectations
21:10	Star Trek
22:00	News in English
22:25	The Bold and the Beautiful
23:10	Feature film: "Black Moon Rising"
PRAYER TIMES	
03:52	Fajr
05:25	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
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21:15	Isha
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St. Ephraim Church Tel: 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel: 625266	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 624328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel: 645457	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel: 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel: 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel: 811295	
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel: 614191	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
Fine weather conditions will prevail during the day becoming relatively cool at night with temperatures remaining below average and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	661111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	661111
Fire Brigade	621111, 637777
Blind Bank	671101
Highway Police	834302
Traffic Police	836300
Public Security Department	636521
Hotel Complaints	665881
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	661111
Complaints	661111
Telephone Information	661111
(Directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	101250
Central Amman Telephone	661111
Repairs	625101
Abdul Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Telephone	775111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	661111
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Osama Al Hussein	847269
Dr. Nidal A'ad	751672
Dr. Isam Al Asmar	898904
Dr. Khaldoun Khub	816715
Perdona's pharmacy	776316
Al Asma pharmacy	637685
Narmukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636751
Yacoub pharmacy	644445
Shawwan pharmacy	637681
Sayid's pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847652
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	812613, 52
Min. Max. temp.	
Amman	13 25
Aqaba	20 32
Desert	12 25
Jordan Valley	13 33
Yesterday's high temperatures:	
Amman 25, Aqaba 35, Humidity	
readings: Amman 48 per cent,	
Aqaba 35 per cent.	

DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
(Terminal 1)	
06:35	Beirut (RJ)
09:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:15	Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:10	
12:10	Aqaba, Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
13:00	Brussels, Paris (RJ)
13:30	Cairo (RJ)
14:05	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
14:30	London (RJ)
21:10	Larnaca (RJ)
21:20	Jeddah (RJ)
21:45	Damascus (RJ)
21:45	Damascus (RJ)
22:20	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:30	Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
(Terminal 1)	
08:00	Damascus (RJ)
08:15	Soma (RJ)
08:15	Abu Dhabi, Al Am (RJ)
10:20	Beirut (RJ)
10:35	Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:50	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:30	Cairo (RJ)
17:30	London (RJ)
18:15	Frankfurt (RJ)
18:15	Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
05:40	London (BA)
06:15	Cairo (MS)
06:15	Frankfurt (YP)
06:45	Munich (YP)
06:50	Rome (AZ)
07:30	Dubai (EK)
08:45	Kuwait (KL)
09:00	Amman (RJ)
09:00	Bucharest (RO)
09:00	Amsterdam (KL)
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in lbs per kg.	
Apricot	1000 700
Apple	700 500
Banana	600 400
Banana (Mukammal)	530 330
Banana (Imported)	780 530
Cabbage	80 50
Cauliflower	200 140
Cucumber (large)	130 90
Cucumber (small)	200 130
Eggplant	300 180
Garlic (green)	550 380
Garlic (white)	270 150
Leemon	600 450
Marrow (large)	170 120
Marrow (small)	250 170
Mulukhiyah	100 100
Onion (dry)	110 60
Orange	400 300
Peach	400 250
Pepper (hot)	300 220
Pepper (sweet)	400 250
Potato	270 180
String Bean	550 350
Tomato	210 130
Water melon	130 90



Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hashem Dabbas Monday addresses a seminar on electricity distribution in the Arab World (Petra photo)

NRA invites S. African firm to review authority's gold prospecting projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Natural Resources Authority (NRA) has invited a South African minerals company to visit Jordan on a familiarisation trip to view the NRA's work in the field of prospecting for gold and other precious metals, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hashem Dabbas said on Monday.

Dr. Dabbas, who chairs the NRA's board of directors, said the company will help the authority in preparing a detailed programme to measure gold ratios and quantities discovered in Abu Khuseib area in south Jordan.

Recent tests conducted by the authority over several samples indicate that there are promising quantities of gold in that area, Dr. Dabbas said.

He added that the ministry prepared plans to conduct detailed studies on the prospect of investing in minerals in the Kingdom.

The minister said the door is wide open for the Mineral Investments Company which was established recently to start its mining ventures in various fields, adding that he expects the government to hold JD 1 million in shares in the company.

In another development Monday, Dr. Dabbas opened a seminar on electricity distribution in the Arab Union organised by the Arab Union of Producers, Transporters and Dis-

tributors of Electricity in cooperation with the International Conference on Electricity Distribution and the Kingdom's electricity distributors.

In an opening address, the minister said developing nations face the challenge of meeting the demand for electricity in order to boost the sustainable social and economic development processes.

He said these challenges can be overcome by having sound planning policies which govern design and maintenance of electricity distribution systems.

According to Dr. Dabbas, one of the main problems facing Jordan along with other developing countries was the lost energy, wasted due to the design of the distribution lines.

He expressed hope that participants in the seminar, who represent "among" other countries Bahrain, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Italy, France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Spain, Germany and Austria, would come up with proper solutions to this problem.

Director General of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Mohammad Saeed Arafat outlined in his address the development of the energy sector in Jordan since the establishment of the first private-sector electric power company in the 1940s.

This sector grew rapidly in the Kingdom in the peri-

od 1970-95 and at the present, about 99 per cent of the population are linked to the national electric grid, he said.

The JEA director underlined the need to give due care to the distribution systems, starting with their plans, designs, operations and maintenance, stressing the significance of proficient managements in enhancing the confidence of investors to the sector.

In view of the importance of the electricity sector for any economy, restructuring the sector becomes paramount, said Dr. Arafat, adding that several countries have plans to liberalise it and rid it of monopolies.

"We in Jordan are these days witnessing great changes in the structure of the sector in terms of liberalising it and opening it to the private sector," he noted.

Secretary general of the Arab union Mohammad Azzam Khamis said the four-day seminar aims to enable participants to exchange information and expertise and to discuss issues of concern to them.

Mr. Khamis said 90 working papers will be presented at the seminar, half of them by Arab specialists and the rest by experts from industrialised nations.

JEA and Jordan Electric Power Company officials will deal in their working papers with problems facing their institutions, he said.

World Bank team seeks ways to bolster coordinator role of Tourism Ministry

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government could have a unified, long-term tourism policy in place by this fall, according to a World Bank task manager.

A six member World Bank delegation is in Jordan until June 8 to help the government develop a strategy and to assist in the development of a programme that would indicate and monitor the cost and progress of the policy's implementation.

"Our second objective here is to identify 'priority actions' for the strategy," said Toufan Calan, task manager for the World Bank's tourism project in Jordan.

Among these, she said, is to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Tourism.

"Given that the tourism is a flagship sector, it's an important ministry for the economy," she said.

Tourism is the third largest foreign exchange earner in Jordan behind remittances and exports. "However the Ministry of Tourism doesn't have the capacity that is commensurate with its role,"

Tourism remains a private sector endeavour, but the ministry and the government have to be the regulators, she said, which means that the ministry's role of "coordinator" has to be bolstered.

"(The Ministry of Tourism) has to liaise with all ministries, so its capacity to act as a 'coordinating body' becomes very important—when we talk about increasing capacity we mean in terms of increasing the knowledge to develop and upgrade strategy and coordination within the sector," she explained.

Jordan now has a very fragmented sector.

A second priority will be the development of infrastructure in Petra — Jordan's most visited tourist site — and the surrounding

region, she said.

The World Bank will support ongoing United States Agency for International Development (USAID) projects in Petra and will also initiate its own projects including water and sewerage lines, solid waste disposal, roads and landscaping projects.

"We want to help develop the Wadi Musa area so that infrastructure needs of both the local population and the tourist can be met," Ms. Calan said.

She estimated their total cost at US\$50 million, but said that USAID is in the process of completing a study that would give a better indication of the cost for the Petra/Wadi Musa area.

Ms. Calan declined to disclose how much funding for the project might be available, but said that "the tourism sector in Jordan is attracting considerable donor interest."

Wadi Rum is also high on the delegation's priority list owing to its unique ecosystems and environment.

The area has significant potential for eco-tourism as well as cultural tourism. But the government and private sector have been at odds over how to develop the area because of its fragile environment.

Ms. Calan said that the delegation would recommend to the government policies to protect the area and enhance tourism.

"When we say bring tourists to the area, we are by no means advocating the construction of even one single hotel in Wadi Rum," she said. "But you can bring tourists there and make money."

"The entrance fee at Wadi Rum today is JD1," she said. "(Rum) is a treasure that doesn't deserve JD1. But what services are you offering there? There are no brochures, no great facilities, vehicles aren't in good shape, there are no guides. How can you expect tourists to have a good experience without these

things?"

The official also said that Jordan should be able to substantially increase its foreign exchange revenues if it finds ways to attract visitors for longer periods of time.

The average stay of a tourist in Jordan is only three days.

"Visitors need things to do near the attraction," she said. "Take Petra for example. What do people do there at night?"

"We need more site presentation and activities that provide a tourism experi-

ence—this includes a visitor centre, information, signs, guides.

"Attractions need activities — a dinner where people can see traditional dancing or a sound and light show — these encourage people to spend money. They are also encouraged to stay longer."

"Tourists want to, but things — this also boosts foreign exchange," she said, "but we need development of handicrafts and other items that aren't there."

Jordan, she said, also has

tremendous potential for eco-tourism which has been little explored in the Kingdom.

"Eco-tourism can be part of an overall tourism experience, or Jordan could bring special eco-tourist groups."

"Costa Rica has earned tremendous foreign exchange from eco-tourism. It has substantial potential in Jordan, and we have to remember that tourists are looking for something different. The days of 'Costa del Sol' are



Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Saleh Irsheidat Monday tours Karak Castle accompanied by Karak Governor Mohammad Wudian (Petra photo)

Irsheidat tours Karak Castle

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Saleh Irsheidat said Jordan's strategy towards bolstering tourism sector is based on "developing and expanding tourism industry through providing incentives and facilities to the private sector."

During a meeting with Karak Governor Mohammad Wudian and other officials at the governorate, Dr. Irsheidat said restoration of Karak Castle is one of the strategic projects of the ministry, and that the World Bank has formulated a plan to develop and restore the castle, the Petra area and Wadi

Rum.

The minister added that World Bank President James Wolfensohn will visit Karak Castle.

Dr. Irsheidat said the ministry has adopted an investment regulation project and has allocated JD 500,000 for the first phase of the restoration and development project of Karak Castle.

Dr. Irsheidat also discussed the importance of religious tourism especially in some areas like South Mazar where the tombs of the Companions of Mohammad mark the site of the "Muta battle."

Judicial council appoints first woman judge

By Lola Keilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — For the first time in the history of the Kingdom a woman has been appointed as a judge.

Taghrid Hikmat, a 49-year-old lawyer, whose appointment was announced Monday by the Judicial Council has been practising law for the past 15 years.

While it has not been unusual for women in Jordan to enter the legal profession, no woman has ever been appointed as a judge.

Another lawyer, and

human rights activist, Asma Khader, told the Jordan Times that although all Jordanians are equal before the law "until now applications by women to join the judiciary were always turned down at a certain point."

Ms. Khader attributes the decision to appoint a woman judge at this time to the "white revolution government" which, she stressed, has a positive attitude towards women's issues.

According to the law, there are two means through which a lawyer can apply for a judicial posi-

tion: the first is studying for two years at the Judicial Institution, the second is to have at least two years of practical law experience.

After that, eligible lawyers must take a comprehensive examination and then appear for a personal interview before a panel of three judges.

Last year three women lawyers filed applications for the position of judge, and although informed they had done "well in the interview, and despite good recommendations, the Judicial Council never got in touch with us," one of the women

applicants told the Jordan Times.

The lawyer, who asked not to be identified, said that "probably pressure against appointing a woman judge was too strong."

Nivine Nabil the first woman lawyer to sit for the judicial exam in 1988 told the Jordan Times that the government then was not ready to set a precedent by appointing a woman judge at that stage, asserting that if the executive authority had wanted to appoint a woman it would have done so at that time.

Several male lawyers interviewed by the Jordan Times welcomed the appointment of a woman judge saying that it is a "positive step in the right direction."

"They said that women lawyers have proved through their work that they are qualified, and it was about time to have women judges."

Nevertheless, they added that such a step will create a strong debate in the Kingdom, "especially that women are still discriminated against when it comes to public sector

Regional specialists study seismological activity in Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — Seismological experts from Jordan, Egypt and Israel gathered in Amman Monday to take part in a workshop on "The Gulf of Aqaba Seismological Activity."

The three-day workshop, organised by the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) in cooperation with the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), aims to study and evaluate the recent seismological activity in the Red Sea gulf and scientific conclusions drawn from this activity,

considered by scientists as unusual.

The workshop also aims to plan cooperation among the states which share the gulf — which include in addition to the participating countries Saudi Arabia — to limit dangers inherent in any future earthquakes.

A series of earthquakes measuring between 4-6.2 on the Richter scale shocked Aqaba earlier this year, damaging several buildings and killing several people in Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Participants in the workshop reviewed several working papers on their observations and findings

of these earthquakes, which sent waves of panic throughout the four countries.

Director of the NRA's Geophysics Department Mohammad Jaradat said the participants Tuesday will be divided into three working groups to study all information on seismological activity in the Gulf of Aqaba.

The conclusions to be reached by the working groups will be gathered and discussed in order to issue recommendations that might help the four countries reduce the effects of tremors, he said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

• *Der Pflanz* at Coiffe Institute at 8.30 p.m.
 • *Singing in the Rain* at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 7.30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

• Works by Rami Mazoni at the French Cultural Centre, until June 27.
 • Paintings by artist Issam Tantawi at Bahadour Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until June 14. Also display jewellery crafted by artists Saad Raja and Zina Hammad, until June 16.
 • Photography exhibition by Yousef Al 'Allan at Zaitoonah University, until June 5.
 • Works by Ahmad Nawash at the Jordan Plastic Arts Association, Jabal Wadiah, until June 29 (Tel. 623297).



U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher yawns during the opening session of the NATO meeting in Berlin Monday. NATO foreign minister met Monday to endorse plans for a more flexible alliance to meet the challenge of new types of post-Cold War military mission with a greater role for European nations (Reuters photo)

U.S. gives Europeans freer hand for operations within flexible NATO

BERLIN (AFP) — The United States agreed Monday to allow its European allies a freer hand within NATO as part of plans to make the organisation more responsive to crises of armed conflict in the world.

Foreign ministers of the 16 NATO states meeting in Berlin agreed to define for the first time a specifically European role permitting operations under the control of the 10-member Western European Union (WEU).

The agreement was seen as a victory for France in particular, which had been pressing for a clear "European identity" in NATO as a condition of its return to NATO structures, which it quit in 1966.

It came after wrangling on details which continued until 4:00 a.m. (0200 GMT) Monday.

The ministers' 26-page declaration recognises this European identity, saying it will "permit the creation of militarily coherent and effective forces capable of operating under the political control and strategic direction of the WEU."

The WEU, based like NATO in Brussels, is the sole European defence body.

But it so far has little structure of its own, and would if necessary call upon NATO's intelligence and logistics resources in the event of an operation in which Americans were not involved.

The agreed reforms of NATO formalise its potential to mount crisis-management operations going beyond the alliance's original purpose of collective self-defence.

Central is the concept of Combined Joint Task Forces (CJTFs), which opens the door to multinational coalitions of variable configuration, including strictly European operations led by the WEU.

France also obtained agreement that there should now be identification of the types of "separable but not separate" NATO capabilities and assets which could be made available for WEU-led operations.

This implies that the command staff concerned wear a "double hat," NATO and WEU, and "such European command arrangements should be identifiable," the text says.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said the allies had agreed a restructuring of NATO giving it the means "to help provide stability throughout Europe — and respond rapidly to crises that are likely to happen, but which cannot now be foreseen."

Mr. Christopher said the CJTF concept "builds on the approach that was so successful during the Gulf war" and would also draw on current experience in Bosnia, where NATO leads the 50,000-plus Dayton peace implementation force.

The CJTFs would "give NATO a permanent institutional capacity to plan, to train for and to deploy complex operations," and make it easier for non-NATO countries to join in alliance response to emergencies, Mr. Christopher said.

French Foreign Minister Herve De Charette said Paris was satisfied with the decisions and that France was "ready to take its place in a new alliance" with the same status as other members.

Assuming the process outlined in Berlin Monday goes ahead, this means the reintegration of France in NATO, with all that it implies — but a different NATO from that which it left 30 years ago under President Charles De Gaulle.

The U.S. Secretary of State said France had taken a historic step in drawing closer back to NATO's military command structure.

NATO Secretary General Javier Solana said the definition of a European defence identity would "make Europe stronger," by allowing it to have "effective means to face future crises."

Sinn Fein leader sees 'golden' peace chance

BELFAST (R) — Martin McGuinness, chief negotiator for the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, said Monday that Britain had a "golden opportunity" to create lasting peace in Northern Ireland at talks next week.

But McGuinness gave no hint as to whether Sinn Fein's Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrilla backers would renew a broken truce to earn a seat at the talks, which start on June 10.

"We recognise there is before us a golden opportunity to tackle all of the issues at the heart of the conflict," Mr. McGuinness told the BBC.

"What we need to see from the British government is wholehearted and decisive moves to inclusive negotiations," said Mr. McGuinness, whose party shares the IRA goal of ending British rule and reuniting the province with Ireland.

Mr. McGuinness was speaking 24 hours before British and Irish government ministers put the finishing touches to the talks agenda in the hope of persuading the IRA to renew a 17-month truce and clear the way for Sinn Fein to be invited.

Sinn Fein has played down speculation of a snap truce and former Irish President Albert Reynolds, one of the architects of the Anglo-Irish Northern Ireland peace initiative, said at the weekend that chances for one seemed remote.

The British Northern Ireland secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, and Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring meet in London for what will be their final discussions on the talks agenda before they depart.

Sir Patrick, in a key concession to Sinn Fein, said Saturday that the IRA would not be required to disarm as soon as the talks open as its Protestant Unionist foes, who want the province to remain British, demand.

He said the IRA would still have to declare an end to its renewed war on Britain, launched with a wave of London bomb attacks in February, but would only have to start surrendering its weapons "soon" after the talks started.

The London Financial Times reported Monday that the IRA would not have to start banding over its Semtex plastic explosives or heavy weaponry until September, three months after the start of the negotiations.

This would mean that Sinn Fein could take part in the talks while the IRA was still armed, something the British government had hitherto staunchly rejected.

The concession has infuriated Unionists, who fear that the government is trying to appease the IRA with the secret goal of negotiating a dilution of their cherished British status.

Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) leader David Trimble, who heads the biggest political party in the province, was flying to London Monday for what could be stormy talks with British Prime Minister John Major, party sources said.

Mr. Trimble has threatened to vote against Mr. Major's government, which has a parliamentary majority of one, if there is any more of what he termed "backsliding" to accommodate Sinn Fein and its IRA supporters.

The UUP won 30 seats last week in a new peace forum which is to run in parallel with the talks but has no power over them. Sinn Fein took 17 seats, raising its electoral score from an average 12 per cent to a record 15.5.

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams says that his party should be allowed, like any other political group with forum seats, to select its negotiators for the peace talks but Britain and Ireland insist that an IRA ceasefire must come first.

Irish president makes 1st official visit to U.K.

DUBLIN (R) — Mary Robinson will become the first Irish president to pay an official visit to Britain Tuesday in a sign of sharply-improved relations between Dublin and its former colonial power.

"I am very conscious of breaking new ground," Ireland's first woman president told reporters last week.

"It is maybe surprising in many people that it has not happened before now. But because of the complexity of our history, it hasn't," Mrs. Robinson said.

It will be Robinson's 13th visit to Britain but the first to be accorded official status.

The two governments are partners in a complex quest to settle the Northern Ireland dispute, a legacy of the end of British rule in Ireland seven decades ago.

Britain partitioned Northern Ireland as a homeland for a Protestant pro-British majority at that time and the Irish constitution lays claim to the province as part of Ireland.

"My visit will focus on a bilateral relationship between two people that has very long history with a lot of sadness and tragedy and bitterness and difficulties," Mr. Robinson said.

"This will bring it into a modern context as co-partners within a wider European Union. That is the difference between this and my previous visits."

Mrs. Robinson will have talks during her four-day visit with British Prime Minister John Major, who says that a settlement of the Northern Ireland problems is his government's top priority.

She will also hold talks with Queen Elizabeth, and said that she hoped that better relations between the two countries would eventually be crowned by Queen Elizabeth visiting Ireland for the first time.

Burmese opposition urges action against junta

BANGKOK (AFP) — Groups opposed to Burma's military government Monday called for internal defiance and international campaigns to counter the junta's campaign against Aung San Suu Kyi's Rangoon-based political opposition.

"(The junta) has no willingness to resolve the basic political problems of the country through negotiation and dialogue... It is pushing the country towards a very dangerous situation," the National Council of the Union of Burma (NCUB) said in a statement received in Bangkok.

The council is a broad coalition of ethnic and political groups based in a rebel-held pocket of jungle territory opposite Thailand's Tak province.

The statement was issued in response to the arrest of 262 activists in Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) in the run-up to a party congress last week, six years after it swept general elections for a parliament that the junta never convened.

At least 119 NLD activists have been released, but party members in Rangoon expressed concern that the leading party members would be hit with heavy prison sentences.

The NCUB statement called for a halt to foreign investment and economic relations with the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

The coalition also asked the Burmese to refuse to cooperate with the SLORC or to participate in the mass rallies it has organised to denounce the opposition as "destructive" and "imperialist lackies."

Many of those attending the rallies have said their participation was required.

Analysts in Rangoon have said the SLORC was trying to counter the impression of popular support for the NLD generated by the thousands who have gathered at Aung San Suu Kyi's residence on the weekends.

SLORC claims that peace, stability and development were returning to the country with the signing of ceasefire accords with 15 armed ethnic opposition groups were false, the NCUB statement said.

"The ceasefire groups are mainly in the Kachin, Shan and Mon states (of Burma). Battles are a daily occurrence in the remaining Karen, Karenni, Arakan and Chin states," it said.

Even where the ceasefire agreements had been signed, the SLORC was not negotiating a political settlement but treating the groups as having surrendered, the statement said.

Russia urges compromise on NATO expansion

MOSCOW (R) — Russia was worried that the West had shown little interest in finding compromise with it over NATO's eastward expansion plans, Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov said in a television interview broadcast Sunday.

"I think we could agree on some compromise decisions and I am puzzled why the West does not respond to the signals which are being sent," Mr. Primakov told Russian Television. It was not clear when the interview had been recorded.

Mr. Primakov he was explaining Russia's position on the issue set out in the electioneering platform of President Boris Yeltsin, who is seeking a second term 16.

Mr. Yeltsin, who is facing a strong

challenge from Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov, has reiterated Moscow's opposition to the enlargement plans of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

Diplomats say Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland — once members of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact — are prime candidates for early membership in NATO.

"We view one thing as fully unacceptable, that is bringing NATO's military infrastructure close to our territory," Mr. Primakov said. "There may be a compromise about the rest."

"For instance... well let's say that is an improvisation," he added. "NATO might give its guarantee to Central and Eastern Europe without adopting them in NATO's military organisation."

More oxygen canisters found at U.S. crash site

MIAMI (R) — Recovery workers combing the site of the crash of ValuJet Flight 592 Sunday unearthed 10 more of the oxygen-generating canisters that might have been a cause of the deadly accident, workers said.

The Atlanta-bound ValuJet DC-9 plunged into the Everglades northwest of Miami shortly after takeoff on May 11, killing all 110 people on board.

Workers have combed the muddy crash site since for pieces of the doomed plane, remains of its victims and an explanation for the disaster.

Discovery of more of the canisters came on the second day workers have been able to use heavy equipment to dredge the mucky crater left after the crash. Bad weather, equipment prob-

lems and logistical issues involved in working in the giant swamp had delayed the start of digging for several days before it began Saturday.

Discussion of possible causes for the crash has focused on as many as 144 improperly packed oxygen-generating canisters that were placed in the aircraft's forward hold, along with inflated aircraft tires, before takeoff. Officials of the National Transportation Safety Board believe canisters might have ignited, causing a fire, but only about six had been found before Sunday.

Workers said some of the canisters retrieved Sunday appeared to be damaged by fire.

Despite intense searching since the

disaster, less than half of the doomed DC-9 has been recovered, and the remains of only 24 victims have been positively identified.

In an analysis of possible causes of the crash published in Sunday's edition, the Miami Herald cited aviation experts saying the highly flammable chemicals and other material in the cargo hold might have slammed together on takeoff. Such an occurrence could have caused a deadly fire whose fumes might have knocked out the plane's pilots and killed almost everyone on board the plane before it hit the ground.

"Melting plastic typically produces gases deadly enough to kill with one breath," the newspaper said.

Julie Andrews snubbed by Broadway

NEW YORK (R) — Broadway gave Mary Poppins a black eye for bad behaviour Sunday night in a Tony Awards ceremony watched by millions of Americans on television.

British superstar Julie Andrews, who claims the nanny Mary Poppins as one of her most beloved roles, was mocked and then denied one of Broadway's highest honours — the award for best actress in a musical — at the 50th Annual Tony Awards.

Host Nathan Lane poked savage fun at Andrews during the show for boycotting the awards ceremony because only she had been nominated for an award from the cast of her hit *Victor/Victoria*.

But the real blow came when it was time to announce the award for best actress in a musical. Andrews lost to a clearly shocked Donna Murphy who won for her role as the school teacher in *The King and I*.

Murphy called Andrews an inspiration as she accepted the award that, had the controversy not happened, would easily have been Andrews'.

The controversy overshadowed the awards ceremony taking place to honour one of Broadway's strongest years in decades.

The award for best musical went to the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Rent*, whose 35-year-old author Jonathan Larson died five months ago as his play went into a dress rehearsal for an off-Broadway opening.

Terrence McNally's play *Master Class* was named the year's best play and Zoe Caldwell, who starred as the unhappy diva Maria Callas in the play, was named best actress.

Veteran Broadway star George Grizzard was named best actor in a play for his performance in the revival of Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance*, which was named the year's best revival.

Lane, who won his first Tony as best musical actor for his work in the revival of *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, opened the two-hour show dressed as Andrews in *Victor/Victoria*, saying: "Did you really think she would show up? That would be like the Pope showing up at Madonna's baby shower."

Her boycott of the awards caused a major controversy on Broadway and Lane said, "welcome to the tabloid Tonys."

Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The King and I* was named best musical revival of the year and Albee's *A Delicate Balance* was the winner of the year's best straight play revival.

The award for best featured actress in a play went to Audra McDonald for her work in *Master Class*. McDonald, who looked shocked at her award, said: "I am going to try really hard not to faint."

Rent and *Bring In 'da Noise, Bring In 'da Funk* vied for top honours among musicals with *Rent* winning best musical, score and book for Larson.

The 22-year-old tap-dance sensation Savion Glover was named best choreographer for his work on *Noise/Funk*, a history of the black American experience as seen through tap dancing.

By the end of the night, *Rent*, *Noise/Funk* and *King and I* had each walked off with four awards. *Delicate Balance* and *Master Class* had three each.



Tony Award winners for best leading actress and actor in a musical, Donna Murphy (left) from *The King and I*, and Nathan Lane from *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* pose after the 50th Annual Tony Awards in New York Sunday (Reuters photo)



Actor Lou Diamond Phillips (right) and his wife Kelly arrive for the 50th Annual Tony Awards at the Majestic Theatre in New York Sunday. Phillips was a nominee for Best Leading Actor in a Musical for his role in *The King and I* (Reuters photo)

Scottish Nationals want to legalise prostitution

PITLOCHRY, Scotland (AFP) — The Scottish National Party Sunday voted in favour of legalising prostitution despite fears it could cost them votes in the next election.

The SNP said 70 per cent of its members, voting at the annual meeting of the party's National Council in Pitlochry, near Dundee in east Scotland, were in favour of decriminalising prostitution.

The council voted to authorise "zones of tolerance" in certain neighbourhoods and licences for certain establishments such as massage parlours where sex is paid for, at the discretion of the local authority.

The controversial motion, adopted despite the personal opposition of party leader Alex Salmond, seeks the abolition of "arbitrary laws prohibiting commercial sex between consenting adults" and police dossiers on prostitutes.

"You can be sure this will be used very heavily against us in the coming election," said another opponent, MP Andrew Walsh. The SNP has three members sitting at Westminster but in Scotland the party claims second place, along with the Conservatives, behind Labour.

However the delegate behind the motion, Edinburgh Leith party activist Kay Millar, said: "This will go down in British political history."

"Other parties are scared of this because they say it will not win votes. This is not what we should be about. I do not think this will cost us votes," said Mr. Millar, who has done volunteer work with prostitutes.

Police called in to quell China hooligans

SHANGHAI (R) — The referee called in riot police to restore order at a Chinese second division soccer match after the crowd threw objects on to the pitch, the Wen Hui Bao newspaper reported. Play was held up when a player from the Meierya team of Hubei was felled by a bottle thrown from the crowd five minutes into the match Saturday night against Nanjing's Jijia. In the 18th minute of the second half, spectators started throwing objects on to the field, forcing the referee to stop the game and ask for police to be called in, the newspaper said.

It's depressing to be British — survey

LONDON (R) — Britons are depressed about their future and certain they are getting dumber, less healthy and less well-behaved, the Daily Telegraph reported. The poll of 933 adults showed that most are gloomy about their future, the newspaper said. "There seems to be a powerful fear that, in certain important respects, we are heading downhill," it said in a commentary. In May 1968, 68 per cent of those polled thought the nation's health was improving. In 1996, 51 per cent thought it was getting worse.

Witch doctors cast spell on Colombian team

LIMA (R) — In a bid to cure their country's ailing soccer fortunes, Peru's witch doctors cast spells to send rivals Colombia to sleep during a vital World Cup qualifier. In the run-up to the big game in Lima, the "Shaman of the Andes," Juan Osco, led throngs of his medicine-men in rituals that included kicking, stalling, and spitting at miniature dolls of top Colombian players Fredy Rincon, Faustino Asprilla and Carlos Valderrama. "You're going to miss, miss, miss," Mr. Osco chanted, as he shoved a replica of star forward Rincon into a skull's mouth at the players' training ground.

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Azeri President Geydar Aliyev (from left to right), Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian, Georgian Leader Eduard Shevardnadze and Russian President Boris Yeltsin sit under their national flags Monday during a cooperation treaty signing ceremony in the city of Kislovodsk. Mr. Yeltsin, out to consolidate his image as a peacemaker two weeks before elections, signed the accord (Renter photo)

Yeltsin signs accord denouncing Caucasus separatism

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his counterparts from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia Monday agreed to cooperate on settling conflicts in the volatile Caucasus region in an accord which denounced "aggressive separatism."

The declaration on "inter-ethnic understanding, peace and cultural and technical cooperation" was signed at a four-nation summit in the southern Russian town of Kislovodsk, the Interfax News Agency reported.

It was the first such meeting since the break-up of the Soviet Union five years ago, giving Mr. Yeltsin the opportunity to portray himself as a powerful regional leader ahead of the Russian presidential elections later this month.

During the talks, regional leaders expressed "their understanding and their support" regarding Chechnya, said Mr. Yeltsin, who 18 months ago mobilised the Russian army to quash the separatist movement in the rebel republic.

Mr. Yeltsin added that Russian forces would "rigorously" adhere to the ceasefire signed last week with Chechen rebels following his meeting with Chechen rebel leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev.

In a statement after the summit, Caucasus leaders gave a ringing endorsement to Mr. Yeltsin. "The economic reforms and the democratisation of society are linked to the name of President Boris Yeltsin."

Putting an end to this process would "encourage separatist tendencies" and put the Russian state in danger, the statement said, underlining the severity of dangers in the north Caucasus region.

It said while certain changes to the reforms were necessary they were tactical rather than fundamental.

Diplomats, who noted it was the first time for several years that leaders were talking about peace in a region still ravaged by several unresolved conflicts, had expected the accord to avoid controversy.

While Russia faces the Chechen rebellion, Georgia is fighting Abkhaz and Ossetian separatists, while Armenia is locked in conflict with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian-populated enclave in Azerbaijan, where it claims sovereignty. No mention was made of this conflict.

The one-day summit brought together the heads of both the independent states of the region and the republics still under Russian control, including the head of the pro-Russian government in Chechnya, Doku Zavgayev.

The declaration, signed by Mr. Yeltsin, Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia, Armenia's Levon Ter-Petrosian and Azerbaijan's Gaidar Aliyev, said territorial integrity was fundamental for peace, and it denounced "aggressive separatism," Interfax reported.

The presidents of the four former Soviet republics also insisted on the inviolability of their frontiers and the respects of individual rights and freedoms, including those of minorities.

Condemning inter-ethnic hatred and religious extremism, the four vowed to unite their efforts against terrorism "in all its forms," Interfax said.



CHECHEN PRISONERS: A Russian Interior Ministry officer takes handcuffs off a Chechen rebel after bringing him to a detention centre near Grozny. The Russian army accused Chechen rebels Monday of breaking a two-day-old ceasefire and international mediator Tim Guldin said a date for talks between the two sides was still uncertain after the truce had been violated (Renter photo)

New Indian government upbeat after entry of Communists

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's new coalition government, buoyed by the surprise entry of a Communist Party, dismissed predictions Monday that it was bound to collapse and said it would last a full five-year term.

Jaipal Reddy, a spokesman for the centrist Janata Dal (People's Party), the main party in the United Front Coalition, said the new government was "as solid and united as a rock."

"We don't have to make any more efforts to get the backing of other parties," he told AFP Monday, a day after the Communist Party of India (CPI) announced it was joining the administration.

The CPI's entry marks the first time since India's independence in 1947 that a Communist Party will participate in the government in New Delhi.

The party's decision to break ranks with other leftist groups was announced Sunday, shortly after Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda named a cabinet comprising members of the five parties which have already joined the government.

Newspapers reported Monday that Inderjit Gupta, the CPI general-secretary, may be given the powerful Home Ministry portfolio, which was left vacant in the cabinet unveiled by Deve Gowda Sunday.

Mr. Reddy said the United Front, which has been promised the support of the Congress (I) Party of former Premier P.V. Narasimha Rao, would last a full five years and was in agreement on foreign policy, defence and economic issues.

"As far as external policy and defence are concerned, there is an extraordinary national consensus," he said. "About the (economic) reforms too there is no major problem."

Mr. Deve Gowda, 63, a former chief minister of the southern state of Karnataka, has named Harvard-educated lawyer Palanip-

ANC denounces Western Cape poll as unfair

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — Nelson Mandela's ruling African National Congress (ANC) Monday denounced the results of last week's Western Cape local government elections as flawed and unfair.

The ANC's Western Cape provincial leader, Chris Nissen, said his party would not accept the validity of the elections because of vote-counting mistakes and other problems that prevented large numbers of people from voting.

Frederik De Klerk's National Party (NP) reaffirmed its dominance of the Western Cape in Wednesday's elections, capturing about 60 per cent of the vote in the 27 rural districts and taking outright control of four of Metropolitan Cape Town's six sub-councils.

Mr. Nissen said although the ANC rejected the results, it would not take legal action to challenge the vote.

Mr. Nissen accused electoral officials of trying to orchestrate an NP win with what they termed "a computer error" that gave about 2,700 ANC votes in Metropolitan Cape Town to the small, conservative African Christian Democratic Party.

After the error was corrected, the NP and the ANC were left with an equal number of seats in the populous Tygerberg sub-council, reducing the NP's overall hold on the city.

The central sub-council in downtown Cape Town was the only one to be captured outright by the ANC.

Wednesday's elections were widely seen as an important test for the NP, which announced on May 9 that it would pull out of Mr. Mandela's national coalition government as of June 30 to become the country's main opposition party.

St. Petersburg mayor Sobchak ousted; rival vows investment

ST PETERSBURG, Russia (R) — Anatoly Sobchak, liberal mayor of St. Petersburg, has narrowly lost the city's governorship election to his deputy-turned-rival Vladimir Yakovlev, according to preliminary results Monday.

Electoral Commission official Alexander Cherkov told Reuters that, with the count completed after Sunday's second-round run-off, Mr. Yakovlev had 47.5 per cent of the vote compared to 45.8 per cent for Sobchak.

Mr. Sobchak, a law professor who rose to national prominence as an early ally of Boris Yeltsin in the Russian reform movement of the late 1980s, had called the race a trial for the country's presidential election in two weeks time on June 16.

But Mr. Yakovlev, 51, who capitalised on dissatisfaction with Mr. Sobchak's five years of municipal stewardship in Russia's second city, also backed Mr. Yeltsin for a second term as president.

Mr. Yakovlev, quoted by the Interfax News Agency, said Monday his first tasks would be to prepare schools for the new academic year, improve social services and attract more investors to Russia's second city.

Answering reform-politician Yegor Gaidar's warning that a vote for Mr. Yakovlev would be a blow to democracy, Interfax quoted the new mayor as saying, "in no way will democracy suffer in St. Petersburg or in Russia after my election."

The Electoral Commission said preliminary turnout in Sunday's vote was given last night at around 43 per cent of the city's nearly four million eligible voters.

St. Petersburg is a reformist stronghold and all other candidates, including the main Communist challenger, were eliminated in the first round of voting two weeks ago.

Mr. Yeltsin, facing a strong Communist challenge in the presidential poll, had not said which candidate he would prefer to win in St. Petersburg. The main battle for him appeared to be won when the Communist had failed in the first round.

Meanwhile President Yeltsin's main Communist and ultra-nationalist rivals got together Monday and agreed that the first-ever democratic transfer of power in Russia should proceed peacefully.

Communist Gennady Zyuganov and nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy did not discuss details of any possible power shareout after the June 16 presidential election, Mr. Zhirinovskiy's spokesman Viktor Filatov told Interfax News Agency.

But Mr. Filatov did not appear to rule out such a pact, although Mr. Zhirinovskiy's fierce anti-communism makes it unlikely.

"A common viewpoint was worked out at the meeting, that the elections must definitely take place, and must go ahead against a peaceful and calm background guaranteed by the current authorities," he said.

"The main thing is that there is mutual understanding, there are points of convergence."

Mr. Zyuganov has accused the Kremlin leader of planning to disrupt the election if he fears he may lose.

Mr. Yeltsin's aides, in turn, have alleged that Mr. Zyuganov will declare the poll invalid if he does not win.

Mr. Zhirinovskiy is trailing far behind the two of them, although analysts say his rating may be underestimated because much of his rural electorate is not covered by tele-

phone pollsters and many voters are embarrassed to admit their support for him.

He has called several times in the past few weeks for a grand coalition to prevent Russia lapsing into chaos and conceded he is unlikely to come higher than third in the vote.

Mr. Zyuganov last week suggested government posts to liberal candidates Grigory Yavlinsky and Svyatoslav Fyodorov, as well as to former general Alexander Lebed, if they would back him. None has apparently responded to the offer.

Polls give Yeltsin big lead

Two opinion polls published at the weekend gave President Yeltsin a big lead over his Communist opponent for Russia's June 16 election.

One survey, from the Romir Polling Organisation, said Mr. Yeltsin would command the support of 35 per cent of the 1,600 people questioned, compared with 24 per cent for Mr. Zyuganov. The margin of error is four per cent.

A second opinion poll, conducted by pollsters Cessi for CNN and the English-language newspaper Moscow Times, gave Mr. Yeltsin 32.6 per cent, compared with 19.7 per cent for Mr. Zyuganov. The organisation asked 1,055 Russians how they would vote.

But opinion polls have a poor record in Russia, where people questioned often tell the interviewer what they think the authorities want them to say rather than what they believe.

Even the pollsters admit their samples are dangerously small, given the fact that there are more than 100 million voters in Russia.

Romir's poll of voting intentions in a second round ballot, held if no candidate wins an overall majority in the first round of voting, showed that Mr. Yeltsin would win 46 per cent, compared to 30 per cent for Mr. Zyuganov.

Cessi's poll gave Mr. Yeltsin 47.9 per cent support in a second round, compared with 27.6 per cent for Mr. Zyuganov.

A second-round ballot is likely on July 7 or on July 14.

The opinion polls gave the following results:

Romir poll conducted on May 25-26 (previous poll conducted on May 18-19).

Candidate	pct support	previous pct
Boris Yeltsin	35	31
Gennady Zyuganov	24	24
Grigory Yavlinsky	6	7
Vladimir Zhirinovskiy	5	5
Alexander Lebed	6	4
Svyatoslav Fyodorov	3	5
Mikhail Gorbachev	1	1

Cessi poll conducted on May 21-27 (previous poll conducted on May 9-14).

Candidate	pct support	previous pct
Boris Yeltsin	32.6	27.7
Gennady Zyuganov	19.7	19.3
Grigory Yavlinsky	5.9	9.2
Vladimir Zhirinovskiy	5.7	4.3
Alexander Lebed	5.6	5.5
Svyatoslav Fyodorov	—	3.2

Sri Lanka's Tamil rebels seek Indian help

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka's separatist Tamil Tigers, who suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of security forces, have asked the new government in neighbouring India for help, Tamil sources here said Monday.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) called for "far reaching changes" in New Delhi's foreign policy and an end to the crackdown against Tigers who are in India, said the rebels' journal, Viduthala Puligal.

Tamil sources who made a copy of the bi-weekly newspaper available to journalists Monday said the rebels were keen to mend fences with India and had issued an appeal for New Delhi's help for their struggle for a separate state called Eelam.

Tiger guerrillas were armed and trained by India from 1983 until 1987 when the rebels repudiated an Indo-Lanka peace pact aimed at ending the separatist struggle for a homeland.

Indian troops sent to Sri Lanka to supervise the peace deal ended up fighting the LTTE until they withdrew in 1990 after some 1,140 troops were killed.

A year later, former Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi was killed by a Tamil suicide bomber. The Tigers now stand charged with the assassination.

Since then, India has been cracking down hard against Tiger activities in their former sanctuary of south India and strengthened patrolling the Palk Strait to prevent rebel boat traffic between the two countries.

"The Tamil Eelam people expect the new government of India to give up the policies of the earlier governments regarding the Tiger movement, stop all steps taken against Tigers and become an ally of their struggle," the rebel newspaper said.

Government forces crushed the Tiger rebels in the northern peninsula of Jaffna, where they maintained their de facto state for nearly five years since the withdrawal of Indian troops from the island.

The LTTE, which has been driven to the jungles of the island's northern Wanni region, have vowed to keep up their guerrilla campaign despite the recent setbacks.

Tamils in Sri Lanka's north share close linguistic and religious links with the 35 million Tamil population in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

The LTTE said the changes in New Delhi and Tamil Nadu governments had given them new strength and said India's former foreign policy makers had adopted "wrong policies" towards Tamil Tigers.

The rebels charged it the government in Colombo had adopted anti-Indian policies. They called on India to end political and diplomatic support to the Sri Lankan administration.

However, the government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga had maintained close ties with New Delhi. The president's first official visit abroad after coming to power in

August 1994 was to India.

Mrs. Kumaratunga held six months of talks with the LTTE but the rebels pulled out of the talks in April last year to resume their protracted guerrilla war, which has claimed over 50,000 lives to the past 23 years.

Meanwhile a mine planted by Tamil Tiger guerrillas exploded under a tractor in the northern peninsula of Jaffna, killing eight civilians and wounding another, the Defence Ministry said Monday.

The bomb exploded Sunday night in the Walikamam district of the peninsula from where the army had driven out the LTTE, the ministry said.

Defence officials said they believed the guerrillas may have planted more mines in the area before withdrawing in the face of a massive military onslaught since October last year.

In another incident in the Jaffna peninsula, three children were seriously wounded when a locally-made arul grenade they were playing with exploded, the ministry said.

In the east of island, Tiger gunmen shot dead a police commando and a civilian, the ministry said adding that four more civilians escaped with injuries.

Tiger guerrillas who are fighting for an independent homeland in the island's northern and eastern regions have stepped up hit-and-run attacks after the loss of their de facto state in Jaffna earlier last month.

China cracks down on campus Muslim separatists

BEIJING (R) — Chinese authorities have expanded a crackdown on separatists and illegal religious activities to include colleges and schools throughout the restive north-western region of Xinjiang, officials said Monday.

The "strike hard" campaign against crime and "terrorism" in the mainly Muslim region had netted 2,773 terrorists, murderers and other criminals and more than 600 guns since it was launched in early April, the China Business Times said Monday.

It quoted an official as saying six cases involved "terrorists" who had "killed rural cadres and assassinated progressive religious leaders." All six cases had been successfully dealt with, the official said.

The frontier region that borders Afghanistan, Pakistan and three mostly Muslim Central Asian states has been shaken in recent weeks by several violent clashes and political killings involving separatists who want to end Chinese rule in Xinjiang.

In the latest expansion of the crackdown, Xinjiang Television reported that starting this month, "our region will concentrate on thoroughly clearing up and rectifying college campuses and neighbouring areas."

Colleges must "resolutely oppose national separatism, resist and stop the infiltration of religions into colleges and remove their influence on students," Xinjiang television at the weekend quoted a vice-chairman of the local government, Wang Huaiyu, as saying.

The crackdown on crime would hit at "all kinds of law-breaking and criminal offences that pose a danger to colleges," he said.

"Efforts will be made to oust outsiders from colleges and to strengthen public order on campuses," the report said.

"Students are not adults and lack the ability of self-protection," an official of the Xinjiang Education Commission said by telephone.

The separatists interfered in campus life, a Xinjiang Television editor said from the regional capital, Urumqi.

"They interfere with study and the administration of education institutes," the official said.

Xinjiang government leaders fighting to curb the increasingly violent campaign for more independence have warned that "splitism" and illegal religious activities pose the biggest threat to stability in the region.

In a campaign to suppress the separatists, officials have banned construction of new mosques, tightened controls on religion and ordered stricter searches for weapons hidden in goods and luggage entering Xinjiang, local officials have said.

At the Xinjiang Koran College, an official in the security office said everything was quiet. "Come and have a look, and you'll see there's no problem," he said.

Last week, a policeman and a Muslim separatist were shot dead and a policeman was injured in a gun battle in which police arrested those wanted for stabbing and wounding a local religious leader and his son.

By Rami G. Khouri

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Talk now, substance later

THERE WERE no surprises in Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu's maiden speech after his election as his words on issues of peace were non-committal and came in general terms. Outgoing minister Yossi Beilin rightly described the Sunday address of Netanyahu as too general and too fuzzy to deserve a serious commentary. Likewise, there were no assurances that the upcoming Likud government would pursue peace in earnest. Neither the Golan Heights nor Hebron were specifically mentioned, something that suggests that Netanyahu's hitherto headline position on these and other issues will be maintained for all intents and purposes. On the general Palestinian level, the words of the new prime minister came devoid of any promises to continue in good faith where the Peres government left off.

It is conceivable that the prime minister did not wish to uncover his cards before he finishes his contacts with his projected partners in the new cabinet. There is a consensus world-wide that the composition of the Netanyahu's cabinet in the course of the next few days will be the best test of his true intentions vis-a-vis the Arab side. There are obviously fears that if Ariel Sharon or Raphael Eitan are chosen for crucially sensitive portfolios then all the forecasts of an imminent setback looming in the horizon would be vindicated.

There was but one faint glimmer of hope in Netanyahu's first ever pronouncement on his future course and it lies in his acknowledgement that his country is deeply divided — not only on domestic issues but also on the peace process itself. "Peace begins at home," said the new prime minister. He also called for national unity. The call could suggest that the formation of a national unity government is not totally excluded. This in turn could mean that a new government in which the Labour Party is represented in strength may not be a far-fetched idea after all. Otherwise Netanyahu would have to make compromises with the ultra religious and extreme right-wing parties in order to muster sufficient parliamentary base for his government.

It is still too early to know whether the non-observant Netanyahu would risk giving in too much to fundamentalism in his country for the sake of securing a majority Knesset support. The fact that the outgoing government of Prime Minister Shimon Peres has left the decision on redeployment in Hebron to the new government may also suggest that some kind of a deal or understanding between Israel's two major parties could be in the works. Meanwhile, the Arab side, together with the international community, must wait patiently for the first clear signals from Israel before there can be a definitive verdict in which way the peace process is heading.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Monday dealt with Wednesday's Israeli elections and urged Arab governments to give their peoples the same democratic chance given to the Israelis. Mu'nes Al Razzaz said the new reality created by the elections should make the Arab governments give the people the right to review the Middle East peace process, exactly as the Israelis did when they went to the polls. "In the name of realism that was raised by the Arab governments when they indulged in the peace process, we ask for our 'realistic' right to reassess developments, or the earthquake as some commentators described the outcome of the Israeli elections, at Arab polls. The Israelis had their say: they want an Arab surrender, not a comprehensive peace. Then why don't we have the right to have our say regarding the kind of peace that we want?" said the writer. "The Israelis want a full Arab surrender. That is the message they sent when they assassinated former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and when we ignored the message they sent us a more eloquent one through the polls," he concluded.

TACKLING THE same subject, a columnist in Al-Dustour Arabic daily said there was no need for the uproar which followed the election of Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu as Israel's new prime minister. Taher Al Adwan said he did not believe the Syrian and Lebanese negotiations will be further complicated by the election of Mr. Netanyahu because of several reasons. First of all, he says, Prime Minister Shimon Peres was not Damascus' optimum negotiating partner. Mr. Peres even ended his tenure by having a military confrontation with Damascus when launching operation "Grapes of Wrath," said the writer, adding that the Syrian-Israeli talks did not progress an inch forward during Mr. Peres' reign. He added that Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula during the Likud tenure might be repeated and Israel might withdraw from the Golan Heights. Mr. Netanyahu is not more radical than former Prime Minister Menachem Begin. He said that an Israeli peace with Syria and Lebanon will serve Israel well in marginalising the Palestinian track of negotiations.

The View from Fourth Circle

Netanyahu, furniture salesmen, theologians and thugs

One of the jobs that newly elected Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu once held in Israel before entering public life was as a marketing executive for a furniture manufacturer — essentially, though honourably, a seller of kitchen tables and bathroom closets, among other things.

The Arab consensus view is that Mr Netanyahu's victory appears to signal major problems ahead for the peace process. I share this view — if we were to anticipate the future only on the basis of Likud's stated positions on Palestinian and Zionist rights in Palestine, Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and other outstanding issues on which Arabs and Likud disagree profoundly. But this may not be the most suitable approach to adopt at this dramatic, historic moment. A fuller, more realistic assessment of the underlying trends in Israel, the Arab World and the interested global powers suggests to me that we will probably experience a momentary calm in the journey of the Love-Thy-Neighbour-Neighbour Peace Boat, after which political and economic realities will reimpose themselves and relaunch the peace process towards a more successful conclusion.

In this respect, I am a hopeless optimist, because I am neither fooled nor frightened by the long-term consequences of the bombast we now hear from the new Israeli leadership. I venture to make the following prediction: Mr Netanyahu's election will usher in a period of exaggerated rhetoric, political tension in Israel and Arab lands, and probably some fresh bouts of violence and terror by Arab groups and the state of Israel; but these phases will be quickly followed by renewed pressures to complete the current peace process, on the basis of an improved version of the Oslo process.

You see, that consummate marketing man Benjamin Netanyahu has just made the sales pitch and marketing blitz of his life, and has succeeded in a spectacular fashion. Now he has to endure the far more demanding and substantive process by which the buyers of his goods test them out, consequently to express either satisfaction at a happy purchase or their sense of betrayal at being sold a false set of goods. The wider historical and political context in which Mr Netanyahu has come to power raises several issues that we must assess accurately, including the following:

— The key element of the context in which we find ourselves remains the fact that a majority of Arabs and Israelis wants to negotiate a permanent and fair peace. This was dramatised by Mr Netanyahu's need to run on a platform of negotiating peace with the Palestinians and other Arabs.

— Yet, the majority on both sides also finds the current peace process increasingly flawed, unfair, disappointing and even undesirable. The verdict of the past several years

is that, a) the Arabs accept Israel, but only conditionally (only if Israel gives the Palestinians and other Arabs their due rights and lands) and, b) Israelis accept Palestinian rights and Syrian/Lebanese territorial sovereignty over lands Israel occupied from them in 1967, but also only conditionally (only if the exercise of such Arab rights formally protects the state of Israel and interacts with it in an open manner).

— The Jewish vote in the Israeli election was not close at all; it heavily favoured Netanyahu, though a few months ago he was more than 20 per cent behind Peres in the polls. The voting for parliament revealed a deeply fragmented country, with the religious and smaller, special interest parties gaining strength at the expense of Labour and Likud. The combination of these two ideological expressions, along with the volatility of the electorate, suggests that Israel is defined today more by the process of ideological change than by a clarity of ideological identity. Other than wanting to be safe from bus bombs, we really do not know what Israelis want, or what they are willing to give up.

— We should maintain enough composure in the current circumstances to differentiate between two important elements: the Israeli people's understandable desire for security and acceptance in this region, and the inability of recent Labour or Likud governments to achieve those goals for them. The Israelis have now expressed the priority importance they attach to short-term security; acceptance will have to wait.

— Benjamin Netanyahu and his anticipated centre-right coalition of religious parties, Russian immigrants, psychological weirdos and violence junkies represent change, but not progress towards peace. This strange combination of centre-right parties may be one of the last gasps of that ugly brand of violent, intolerant, racist-like Euro-style ethno-nationalism that so plagued the world in the first half of this century, but that ultimately gave way to more realistic nation-state concepts based on domestic civil rights and inter-state economic interdependencies.

— The inescapable fact is that all of the harsh positions and policies that Likud expresses today have been tried in recent decades, and have failed spectacularly. They have made Israel less, not more, secure, while provoking deep divisions within Israeli society. One could argue that failed Likud policies in the 1970s and 1980s provided the impetus for more serious peace negotiations in the 1990s; I would argue that we will see this process repeated again in the coming years.

— Like some of the early Zionists and their post-Holocaust successors who saw Zionism basically as a national movement to assert Jewish power as the antidote to Jewish vulnerability, Netanyahu and company reflect an

immediate Jewish obsession with security and survival. This is understandable in view of the impact of the recent terror bombings in Israel, but it is not a recipe for peace with the Arabs.

The election of Mr Netanyahu reflects the Jewish desire for security, not for a just peace with the Arabs. However, Mr Netanyahu's Likudist approach to the Palestinians and other Arabs will once again show that Israeli security cannot come only from military might or colonialist world views, but rather that it must also include a realistic and just Jewish attitude to Arab rights.

I predict that Likudnik maximalist tactics will gradually bring the peace process to a halt in the coming year, resulting in renewed violence against Israeli and Arafatist targets, while home-grown tensions and disappointments within the Arab World heighten. The increasing instability of most Arab states (including the Gulf oil producers) will combine with international revulsion with Likudnik policy to bring intense pressure on the Israeli government to try a different approach in order to revive the stalled peace talks. The desire for a negotiated, equitable and secure peace by a majority of Israelis and Arabs will force a political change within Israel, but only after protracted conflict within the Israeli political system.

In other words, Mr Netanyahu's election will usher in the long anticipated Israeli political civil war, a moment of historical reckoning in which Israelis will have to decide once and for all if their modern Israeli state represents the Jewish tradition of power and messianic militarism or the Jewish tradition of justice and humanism.

Mr Netanyahu has spoken recently as an electoral candidate, an opposition leader, a public relations phenomenon, a furniture salesman and the irresponsible political opportunist that he is. Incumbency and responsibility are likely to change him for the better, but his rightist coalition partners are likely to change him for the worst — so we will probably see him reducing his flamboyance, without necessarily increasing the chances of moving the peace process forward to success.

The flaw in the peace process to date is that it has not been able to ensure Palestinian rights and dignity, or Israeli security and full acceptance by the Arabs. The answer is to admit the weaknesses of the present peace process and to devise a better one that responds more equitably to Israeli and Arab rights. Electing Benjamin Netanyahu and his bizarre collection of rightist theologians and thugs will not achieve this goal; but it will emphasise the urgency and the inevitability of achieving this goal, which some other Israeli leadership will have to attempt in the future.

Likud's victory defines Israel's peace stance

By Farida Salfiti

Benjamin Netanyahu's victory in the Israeli elections sends a clear message from the Israeli electorate to its Arab neighbours: No, to the second stage of negotiations with the Palestinians that will deal with the thorny issues of Jerusalem, settlements, refugees and sovereignty. The elections served as Shimon Peres's promise of holding a referendum on any future deals to be forged with the Arabs, such as further withdrawals from the West Bank and possible withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The Israelis decided that while four years ago they were in favour of launching a peace process, to be implemented in phases, they are now ready to renege on the second part of the Oslo deal.

Throughout the last four years, and particularly since the signing of the Declaration of Principles, negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis have been characterised by numerous concessions on the part of the Palestinians with little, if at all, in return from the Israelis. There was

no meeting half way. It was a meeting of more than three quarters of the way, in favour of the Israelis. The Palestinians were forced to settle with limited autonomy on a very small portion of the territories occupied by Israel in the 1967 war. Moreover, they were made responsible and accountable for Israelis' individual security. They became Israel's proxy security force in the self-rule areas. The Palestinians went further. They promised to cancel all claims in their National Charter calling for the destruction of the state of Israel and for the adoption of armed struggle as a means to attain that goal. They could do nothing as time and again Israel violated the agreements already signed.

The final status negotiations formally began a month ago, although practically all hinged on the Israeli elections for them to begin in a proper form. It would be those negotiations which would be pay back time and demand some concessions by the Israelis. Israelis voted for Netanyahu in defiance of

any potential concessions to the Palestinians, eradicating any meagre hope that might have lingered that a just and equitable resolution to the conflict could be achieved.

Peres is not blameless. Since Rabin's assassination he made crucial mistakes which shifted the volatile balance of power within Israel once again, allowing a victory for the opponents of peace. Behaving disdainfully to Arafat and humiliating the Palestinians, locked into the territories and survived, is no way to treat partners in peace, their feeling and views of Arafat notwithstanding. During the months after Rabin's assassination, Peres began to shift to the right, dressing up in Likud's hawkish armour. He was trying to portray himself as tough on security, while at the same time speaking the language of peaceful coexistence in the region and the building of the "New Middle East." He struck a blow to the Palestinian economy by imprisoning them in the self-rule areas, he launched a savage attack against Lebanon, and forged

alliances with Turkey and the U.S. that belied his so-called peaceful coexistence objectives. A concept of the New Middle East that was strikingly *deja-vu* was emerging.

And then, Peres chose to make an alliance with the religious parties, those same ones that had encouraged and given ammunition to Rabin's assassination, thus legitimising them and not taking advantage of the sharp swing to the left that followed. Meanwhile, and ironically, Netanyahu began to shift to the left, speaking of continuing to honour the peace agreements already signed. A role reversal of sorts was taking place. Peres was confusing the electorate by trying to appeal to all, Netanyahu on the other hand was clear.

The Israelis have learned from the behaviour of Peres and Arab reaction to him. He hits them, kicks them, cracks down hard on them and humiliates them, and they, in return, prove to be resilient. They bounce back and grant him their unwavering support. The Arab states continued

full force with their efforts to normalise relations with Israel, despite its blockade of the Palestinian territories. Arafat continued to grant his support to Peres, despite the starvation of his people. Peres remained the favoured premier, notwithstanding the Cana massacre and his violations of the Oslo agreements. The U.S. continued to back him, even heightening their relationship, lifting it to an altogether higher plane. Over ninety per cent of the Arab-Israeli electorate voted for Peres, despite not being able to extract any promises from him in return for their vote. Ironically, it is that 3-4 per cent which submitted a blank vote for the premiership that is being faulted for Peres's defeat.

Seeing the Arab reactions to Peres' Likudist policies, Netanyahu's message was that he could do the same and if not more, then at least better. There is a bonus too: he would not embark on the second stage of negotiations, he would freeze them where they are, and above all, he would not return the Golan Heights. Leave security to the pros,

the Likud and its alliance with the generals. Leave Likud policies to the Likud. Would he jeopardise the relations with the Arabs? There is no need to be apprehensive, the experience of his predecessor proved otherwise.

Peres was defeated by the very process that he launched in Oslo, leading to the Declaration of Principles. By agreeing to embark on a process of stages, the door was left open for the Israelis to vote in favour of one stage, and decide to stop just there. The Israelis will, in all, their version of peace, security and regional order where they dictate to over 200 million Arabs. These are not bases upon which a peaceful, comprehensive and just solution to the conflict can be built.

The writer is managing editor of the Paris-based newsletter *Issues, Perspectives on the Middle East and World Affairs*. She contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

China, Taiwan ties seen unstable — researcher

By Benjamin Kang Lim
Reuter

XIAMEN, China — Chinese soldiers and civilians peer through telescopes for a glimpse of Taiwan-held islands a rifle shot away from China's southeastern port city of Xiamen.

But researchers with the Taiwan Research Institute of Xiamen University prefer to put the island China considers a rebel province under a microscope.

The institute forecast before Taiwan's first direct presidential elections in March that incumbent President Lee Teng-Hui would win more than half the votes but no more than 54 per cent. Lee won 53.99 per cent.

"We know Taiwan better than Taiwan knows us," Fan Xizhou, director of the institute, said in an interview.

Mr. Fan held out scant hope of an immediate warming in ties, strained

by Mr. Lee's aggressive bid to raise Taiwan's international profile and by China's live-fire war games and unarmed missile tests near Taiwan in the run-up to the polls.

The war games and missile tests were intended to cow the island into dropping dreams of formal independence.

The question now is what will happen next in relations, which nosedived last June when Mr. Lee enraged China by making a landmark private visit to the United States in his bid to end Taiwan's diplomatic isolation.

"There will still be a period of instability in relations between the two sides," said Mr. Fan, one of China's leading Taiwan watchers.

"The mainland...Does not have a lot of confidence in Mr. Lee Teng-Hui," said Mr. Fan, who has been researching Taiwan affairs for 12 years.

"Personally, I can't rule out the possibility of (tensions) easing but the chances of instability are bigger," Mr. Fan said.

Beijing has repeatedly threatened to invade if Taiwan declared independence. Taipei denies it wants independence.

Many in China and Taiwan had hoped the two sides would put their misgivings behind them to allow ties to move ahead after Mr. Lee began his new term on May 20.

Mr. Fan said he was not optimistic because Taiwan was unlikely to abandon its drive to break out of diplomatic isolation.

Taiwan would, however, be more careful not to antagonise China, he added.

Beijing and Taipei have been diplomatic rivals since the defeated nationalists fled to the island after losing the Chinese civil war in 1949.

"The two sides...Do not

understand or do not trust each other. Suspicion is still strong," Mr. Fan said, accusing Taiwan of reluctance to open its doors wider to China.

Mr. Fan's views are backed by other forecasts that showed he had used his microscope with care.

His institute forecast Taiwan's main opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) candidate would come in second in the presidential elections but the vote would drop dramatically.

In fact, the DPP collected 21 per cent of the vote compared with the average 30 per cent it has won in lower-level elections.

The institute also accurately forecast the combined votes of two independent candidates who had quit the island's ruling Nationalist Party would not exceed 25 per cent.

In his inaugural speech on May 20, Mr. Lee offered to visit China on a

conditional "journey of peace". China poured cold water on the offer, saying deeds, not words, were needed to prove Taipei's commitment to reunification.

Beijing suspects Mr. Lee is merely paying lip service to his Nationalist Party's avowed goal of reunification and has slammed him as a "double dealer" and "schemer" who should be "tossed into the dustbin of history".

Fujian was China's frontline of defence against Taiwan for decades until hostility began easing in the late 1970s.

Almost two decades of economic reforms have transformed the mountainous province from economic backwater to powerhouse, with double-digit annual economic growth and foreign investment pouring in.

The crystal ball-gazers at fan's institute have also made some predictions that

have yet to be proved. They are predicting Taiwan's ruling Nationalists would lose their majority in parliament for the first time in five decades in the next elections in 1998.

Lin Jing, an expert on Taiwan politics with the institute, said the Nationalists would be forced to form a coalition government with the opposition before the year 2000.

The Nationalists won parliamentary elections last December with a razor-thin majority.

Mr. Lin may want to spend more time over his microscope before guessing the winner of Taiwan's next presidential election.

Asked which party would win, Mr. Lin said: "It's difficult to predict the Nationalist Party in the post-Lee Teng-Hui era...He's a product of special times...There won't be another Lee Teng-Hui."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Srouer begins official visit to Qatar

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Saad Hayel Srouer on Monday left Amman for Doha on an official visit to Qatar at an invitation by Speaker of the Qatari Shura Council Mohammad Ben Mubarak Al Khalifi. Mr. Srouer is scheduled to meet with Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani and senior Qatari officials for talks on means of enhancing Jordanian-Qatari relations, the Arab situation and the role of parliament in achieving Arab solidarity. The House speaker is accompanied on the visit by deputies Mo hammad Huneiti, Ibrahim Zeid Kilani and Ali Shami.

4 Israelis wounded in blast

JERUSALEM (AP) — Four Israeli telephone repairmen were slightly injured Monday by a bomb hidden in an olive grove in a West Bank village, Israel Radio said. It was the first attack on Israelis inside the West Bank since Benjamin Netanyahu was elected as the next prime minister. Military sources confirmed the attack, which took place in the village of Biddia northeast of Tel Aviv, and said that the repairmen were being treated at the site. Israel Radio said they were later transferred to the Beilinson hospital in the Tel Aviv suburb of Petah Tikva. The bomb was apparently triggered by a remote control device when the Israeli telephone company workers entered the olive grove to fix a telephone line, Israel Radio said. Investigations by security forces found that the phone line had been deliberately cut, probably by the bombers who knew Israeli technicians would come to fix it, army radio said. The report said only part of the explosives went off in the blast.

Sudan confirms deportation of Ben leader

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Sudan has deported a Saudi-born businessman with alleged terrorist links, the Sudanese ambassador to the United Nations said Monday. In a letter to the U.N. Security Council, Ambassador Ali Yassin confirmed the expulsion of Osama Ben Laden after Khartoum reviewed his case "and the doubts raised by certain countries concerning his links with certain groups." "I hereby confirm that he is no longer in the Sudan," The Arab daily Al Hayat reported last month that Mr. Ben Laden, a businessman who lost his Saudi citizenship in 1994, had left Sudan and had settled in Afghanistan. Mr. Ben Laden, an opponent of the Saudi royal family, had lived in Khartoum since 1992 where he reportedly financed activities of Algerian, Libyan, Iranian and Saudi Islamic extremist groups. Mr. Yassin stressed that his country would take the "necessary steps" to ensure that no terrorist activities were tolerated on Sudanese territory, in line with Security Council demands.

Yilmaz government predicted to collapse

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey's fledgling conservative government is likely to collapse by the end of the week, observers said here Monday, after deputies voted to submit it to a no-confidence motion. The vote on Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz's government, which will be held on Saturday, comes after weeks of political bickering with its coalition partner party, led by former Premier Tansu Ciller. She withdrew the support of her centre-right True Path Party last week in a move which prompted the main opposition pro-Islamic Welfare Party to call for a no-confidence vote. Today (Monday) 317 deputies voted in support of the no-confidence motion. This is much higher than the required absolute majority of 276 votes to topple Mr. Yilmaz on Saturday, one analyst said. Representatives from Welfare, True Path and a smaller left-wing party all voiced their determination to topple Mr. Yilmaz, who had refused to resign after Ms. Ciller withdrew her backing.

IFOR to impede movement of criminals

BERLIN (AFP) — NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana said Monday that troops of the Bosnia peace implementation force (IFOR) have begun redeploying in the former Yugoslav Republic to impede the movement of war criminals. "It's going to be difficult for the war criminals because we're going to deploy troops over the whole territory to ensure freedom of movement except for war criminals," he told Radio France International. At present the IFOR troops are mainly deployed along the 1,000-kilometre (600-mile) line separating Bosnian Serb-held territory from that of the Muslims and Croats. Solana earlier called on the parties present in Bosnia-Herzegovina to hand war criminals over to the international criminal tribunal in the Hague, and said the NATO-led troops would seek to deprive them of free movement. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said that Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Bosnian Serb military leader Ratko Mladic should be "removed from positions of power" and handed over to the Hague court.

U.N. seeks \$80m in emergency Iraq aid

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The United Nations on Monday called for \$80 million in immediate aid for Iraq which will be used until funds from an oil-for-food arrangement become available. U.N. spokeswoman Sylvana Foa told a news briefing here that the bulk of the \$80 million would be used to cover immediate needs such as food, water and sanitation, agricultural and health services, as well as shelter and education for vulnerable sectors of the Iraqi population. An estimated \$6 billion would be used to finance U.N. guards in north Iraq. The guards are to play an important role in escorting relief convoys and supporting relief personnel in charge of monitoring aid distribution to the largely Kurdish population in northern Iraq.

Bomb goes off near U.N. conference site

ISTANBUL (AP) — A powerful explosion destroyed doors and shattered windows Monday in a building near the site of U.N.'s city summit, which opened under tight security. There were no injuries. The bomb went off at 6 p.m. (1500 GMT) on the second floor of a building that houses the Alawite association, a Muslim sect that supports Turkey's secular system, said a spokesman for the group, Yesari Gokce. The building is less than two kilometres from the downtown conference site. Authorities beefed up security and assigned some 27,000 policemen during the 12-day meeting, which brought 4,000 delegates from more than 100 countries.

Palestinians, Israelis clash in tense Hebron

HEBRON (Agencies) — Israeli troops were pelted with stones and empty bottles Monday after they stopped and searched an unmarked Palestinian police car in this volatile town, the last in the West Bank that is still under Israeli occupation.

Tension has been rising in Hebron following last week's election victory of Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the opposition Likud Party, who has said he would postpone a planned pullback of Israeli troops from Hebron for several years.

The U.S. ambassador to Israel, Martin Indyk, said Monday that he expected Mr. Netanyahu to honour the pledge by outgoing Prime Minister Shimon Peres to pull soldiers out of most of Hebron.

The commitment to redeploy from Hebron is a commitment that was made by the (previous) government," Mr. Indyk told Israel Radio. "Prime Minister-elect Netanyahu said he would live up to it, he would abide by the commitments made by the previous government."

"It's up to him, in the context of fulfilling those commitments but ensuring the security of Israel, that we will work with him to see those agreements fulfilled," Mr. Indyk said.

On Monday, Israeli soldiers stopped a car driven by plainclothes Palestinian policemen in downtown Hebron. Young Palestinians watching the scene got angry and threw empty bottles and stones at the soldiers, witnesses said.

Troops chased the stone-throwers and arrested two of them.

The vehicle that was searched did not have police insignia, but was painted in the

bright blue of Palestinian police cars.

Under the Israeli-Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy agreement, Palestinian police, who are deployed in two-thirds of the Gaza Strip and one-third of the West Bank, will only be allowed to enter Hebron after Israeli troops pull out of most of the city of 450 Jewish settlers and 120,000 Palestinians.

Witnesses said soldiers pursuing Monday stone-throwers on foot broke into private clinics and kicked and punched doctors and patients. They said troops also smashed the locked door of a law office and searched it.

Residents said soldiers beat nine Palestinians on Monday, including Raed Abu Omar, 24, and his brothers Sahir, 18, who happened to be passing by, and detained them for two hours.

Palestinians said there had been a noticeable shift in Israeli soldiers' attitudes since Mr. Netanyahu defeated Mr. Peres.

"Unfortunately, the extremist trend that emerged with the Israeli elections is beginning to affect the behaviour of the Israeli army," Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe told Reuters. "They have begun provoking residents and assaulting them, increasing the tension in the city."

Palestinians fear that an army pullout from parts of the city, originally scheduled to take place in March, may have been put off indefinitely by the change in the Israeli government.

Residents said Israeli soldiers had erected checkpoints near settlers' enclaves and were roughing up residents who tried to pass through to the south part of the city.

Netanyahu: Talks planned

(Continued from page 1)

law," he said, although other Likud officials said the new government would probably be ready by the June 17 opening session of the new parliament, or Knesset.

Mr. Netanyahu will exclude former Defence Minister and right-wing hardliner Ariel Sharon from any key cabinet posts, Israel Television said.

Before Wednesday's polls, Mr. Sharon was known to be pushing for appointment as finance minister if Likud won.

Two other key portfolios — foreign affairs and defence — will go to other right-wing leaders, the television reported.

Defence is likely to go to reserve General Yitzhak Mordechai, who left the army several months ago.

Mr. Sharon, who heads up the hardline branch of the right, led the Israeli army into the invasion of Lebanon in 1982 when he was defence minister. He has played a central role in unifying the right behind Mr. Netanyahu in the months leading up to the polls.

But during the campaign he was sidelined in order not to scare off centrist public opinion. The United States is "encouraged" by Mr. Netanyahu's first speech as Israel's prime minister-elect in which he said he would pursue peace in the Middle East, the White House said Monday.

"We are encouraged by the reaffirmation of the prime minister-elect's commitment to the peace process. We look forward to working with him," said White House spokesman Michael McCurry.

He added that President Bill Clinton sent messages last weekend to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Presi-

dent Assad, King Hussein and President Mubarak.

Mr. Clinton told the Middle Eastern leaders that "the United States remains interested in a just, comprehensive, lasting peace in the region," Mr. McCurry said.

"We are committed to playing our role as a facilitator of the peace process," the spokesman said.

Asked if the White House was concerned that Mr. Netanyahu had not mentioned Syria in his speech, Mr. McCurry said the peace process "must obviously include Syria but the parties will continue their deliberations appropriately."

In London, Mr. Arafat said Monday he expected Israel to honour its commitment to withdraw from the West Bank city of Hebron on June 12.

Mr. Arafat, in Britain on a two-day visit, his first as president, said after meeting with Prime Minister John Major that the Palestinians were "committed to the Middle East peace process... to what has been signed."

"We hope others will be committed like us," Mr. Arafat said.

"We are respecting the democratic choice of the Israeli people in the last election and we hope we will continue with the peace process," he said.

"I hope that they will withdraw from Hebron exactly according to what had been agreed upon between us and the Israeli government, on the 12th of this month," Mr. Arafat said.

He said the Middle East peace process did not involve only Israel and the Palestinians, but also included "a Syrian track and a Lebanese track," and expressed hope for "the support of America and Russia and the international community."

Mr. Peres is due to meet

Tuesday with Mr. Netanyahu, his office said.

It will be the first time the two adversaries will have met since their televised debate on May 26, three days before the elections.

Mr. Peres, who is still in charge of the government, will meet with Mr. Netanyahu in his office.

President Jacques Chirac of France invited Mr. Netanyahu on Monday to make an official visit to France.

"President Chirac called Netanyahu and invited him to

pay an official visit to France," said Shai Bazz spokesman for the prime minister-elect.

"The two men spoke several minutes and the French president congratulated Netanyahu on his victory in the May 29 elections," he said.

He quoted the French leader as urging Mr. Netanyahu to "pursue the peace process, especially with the Palestinians."

"Israel deserves to live in peace and security," he said.

Bahrain says it foiled coup bid

(Continued from page 1)

revolution to overthrow the Bahrain government by force and replace it with a pro-Iranian regime," Mr. Mutawa said.

"Bahrain will recall its ambassador in Iran and change the status of its embassy into a charge d'affaires," he said.

The Bahraini government has summoned the Iranian ambassador to Bahrain to inform Tehran of the move, he said.

Iran and Hizbollah Bahrain "have been plotting together since early 1993, eighteen months before the current disorder began to undermine Bahraini security and stability," Mr. Mutawa said.

Bahrain has been hit by anti-government unrest since December 1994 led by Shiite Muslims demanding a restoration of the parliament that was suspended in 1975 by the authorities.

Bahrain's emir, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, sent envoys to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait on Monday to brief their leaders about the alleged plot, Mr. Mutawa said.

Iran meanwhile rejected

accusations from its Gulf Arab neighbours of a military buildup, saying the charges were a smokescreen to justify the deployment of U.S. forces in the region.

"Such statements are merely to justify the growing U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf region and its use of certain Arab countries' soil for this purpose," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said.

He warned the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) "not to allow their attention from the main threat and danger to the Muslim nations of the region, which is Israel."

The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) warned Sunday that an Iranian military buildup "exceeds its ordinary and legitimate defence needs."

Mr. Mohammadi also denied GCC accusations that his country had a hand in Bahrain's unrest.

"Iran seeks good relations with its neighbours, wants to cooperate to ensure regional security, and help to remove weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East," he said.

Meeting studies education

(Continued from page 1)

In his paper on the philosophy of education in Islam, Ibrahim Al-Jouini from the Royal Academy said: "Discussion on education or teaching and its philosophy is not far from discussing science and its philosophy because of the congruity they have with each other which may sometimes reach the point of identification or complete merger. Here the chief aim of education is to teach one to (look deeply) into or think freely of events and phenomena."

Mr. Al-Jouini referred to verses of the Koran that stress the importance of knowledge and encourage education.

Addressing the problems of education in modern society, the Rev. George Dragas, dean of the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, in Brookline, the

U.S., said modern society presents challenges to religion through many forces.

One of these forces, he said, is the world economy which has spread its networks in an unequal manner.

"The anxiety which this unevenness creates does not enhance good will or peace among the nations," he said.

Another force Dr. Dragas said, is "the breaking of all barriers of communication among the particular peoples and societies of the world which often became cause of misunderstanding and lack of perception."

He added that the emergence of a new political world order and of global problems such as problems of pollution and disease are also challenges operating in modern society.

Dr. Dragas said that in order to respond

educationally to the challenges and promises which the new world forces present to religious people.

"It is necessary to have a hard look into several areas of religious educational activity."

"Particularly needed are reviews of the channels of responsibility for religious education and especially of the syllabus which should be adjusted."

The three-day Muslim-Christian encounter, will address "Features of the Educational System We Need" from the Muslim and Christian perspectives.

Hussein Rawashdeh, press officer at the Royal Academy, said that at the end of the meeting the participants will present a summary of the debate and recommendations whose implementation is not obligatory since the academy is a financially and administratively independent institution.

Kabariti, JPA launch dialogue

(Continued from page 1)

respond by calling the sit-in that it cancelled yesterday after meeting with Mr. Kabariti.

The JPA charges that the Ministry of the Information prepared the draft law governing its work without consulting with it. But Dr. Musher said he was ready for dialogue with the 360-strong association.

The association board is

opposed to the definition of "journalists" in the draft law, saying that it would open the door wide for non-journalists to join the ranks of the association whose membership has been strictly controlled, leaving many established journalists outside the association.

The main objection the JPA board has against the draft legislation is a provision that would not make membership in the

association obligatory for all journalists.

A number of journalists had called on their colleagues to sign a petition in protest of the draft law, but it was not clear how many journalists would heed the call due to the clear division on the draft law among them.

The apparent tension between the association and the government over the draft law comes about a month before the JPA holds elections for a new president and board members.

Muasher welcomes poll findings

(Continued from page 1)

extent" and "to a medium extent" should be seen together. Judgement should not be based on the basis of only those who felt the government was capable of doing so "to a large extent."

The opinion poll found that among the general public, 40.2 per cent believe Prime Minister Kabariti had "to a large extent" successfully shouldered the responsibilities of the present stage compared with 45.5 per cent who felt he was

capable of doing so in the poll taken in February.

The poll also found that 37.4 per cent felt that the premier has "to a medium extent" successfully shouldered the responsibilities as compared with 51.7 per cent who felt that way in February.

Dr. Muasher asserted that the combined total of these two categories — 77.6 per cent — represented approval of the premier's performance.

On the overall performance of the government, the

percentage of those who gave the two opinions — "to a large extent" (32 per cent) and "to a medium extent" (45.5 per cent) — was also positive, the minister pointed out.

Similarly, the information minister also cited figures of positive responses on the government to almost all questions raised in the opinion poll — all of them more than 65 per cent.

"In all areas where the government has direct control," the opinion poll found strong approval of the performance of the executive authority, he said.

Syria gives negative view

(Continued from page 1)

go anywhere until Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, gives the go-ahead.

At the news conference, both Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Assad suggested giving Mr. Netanyahu time to formulate his policies and urged Arabs to exercise caution in their dealings with the new Israeli government.

"It would be wise to wait and see how the behaviour of the Israeli government will be in view of its policies, we will make up our mind," said Mr. Mubarak, whose country was the first Arab state to sign a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

He added: "If they want a real and comprehensive peace, we are ready for peace."

Arab analysts have suggested that the United States will have to play a bigger role in the talks if Israel's right-wing government is to make the compromise Mr. Peres seemed willing to make.

Mr. Assad, whose relations with the United States have remained cool, echoed the sentiment that Washington had a role to play.

"I believe the American administration was and is serious to push forward the peace process," he said.

Since the election, Arab leaders have engaged in a flurry of contacts and meetings.

Mr. Assad's visit comes a day after he met Lebanese President Elias Hrawi in Syria.

On Wednesday, Mr. Mubarak, King Hussein and Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat are scheduled to meet in Jordan. The meeting was previously planned, but has gained added urgency with Mr. Netanyahu's victory.

Mr. Assad underlined that Syria is "always for any Arab meeting whether between front-line nations or the entire Arab World."

"It is the only way by which we can arrive at a true result and if we do not take it, the way will be difficult and surrounded by dangers from all sides," he warned.

The problems we face today are not like those in the past, they now touch on many fields including (our) very existence," he added.

Mr. Assad said he and Mr. Mubarak discussed "a number of proposals" for a wider Arab summit, adding, "Egypt and Syria will pool their forces, and we hope our Arab brothers will join us because that is in everyone's interests."

Mrs. Rabin

(Continued from page 12)

lead Likud until Mr. Netanyahu took over in 1992, has been one of the staunchest opponents of Israel's autonomy agreements with the Palestinians.

In an interview with the settler pirate radio station "Channel 7," Mr. Shamir said that Mr. Netanyahu must withstand pressures from the international community and moderates within Israel to honour Israel's commitments to the Palestinians.

"I hope that Mr. Netanyahu will not continue along the Oslo framework, and will know how to stand up against those who pressure him (to abide by) this outline," Mr. Shamir said in remarks carried by the Haaretz daily Monday.

"He will need to rebuff these attacks."

Mr. Shamir said Mr. Netanyahu should not pay attention to world opinion. "Members of our people became accustomed during the last four years to taking fright at any threat that came from abroad, even empty ones," Mr. Shamir told Channel 7.

"There is a need to stand firm and take our own course," Mr. Shamir, who has retired from politics, also urged Mr. Netanyahu to resume settlement construction on a large scale.

Saudi Arabia takes first steps to join WTO

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia is taking its first steps to join the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in a move that will open international trade doors wider, but at the same time put pressure on the oil-rich kingdom to liberalise its economy.

Trade experts and diplomats following Saudi negotiations with the WTO said the talks were still in the first phases, but they doubted the world's largest oil producer and exporter would encounter problems joining the 120-member trade body.

"Saudi is very keen to join the WTO and seems ready to take steps and meet needed criteria to ensure that," one Riyadh-based diplomat said.

Saudi Arabia, which held its first talks with the global trade watchdog at WTO headquarters in Geneva earlier in May, is eager to become a member by 1997.

But the experts and diplomats say it could take longer.

"It is entirely early to say when it will happen. The whole process is just getting under way. We are not at the stage where there are problems," the Riyadh diplomat said.

"WTO members have a series of questions on trade policies and intellectual property rights and Saudi authorities are putting together answers," he added.

The second round of talks is expected in November.

The experts and diplomats said it was not yet clear whether Saudi Arabia would be allowed to join as a developing country, which would

give it extra time to conform to WTO rules on copyright protection and to adjust its import tariffs.

"The thinking in Saudi Arabia is that the country is in the early stages of developing. It is true it has the infrastructure but industry as a whole is an infant industry," an expert said.

The experts and diplomats said Riyadh thought the advantages of joining the WTO outweighed any disadvantages even if it placed Saudi economic policies under international scrutiny.

They cited several reasons behind wanting to join the WTO:

- WTO membership would give Saudi Arabia's petrochemical industry — the kingdom produces five per cent of world petrochemical needs — access to wider international markets.

- It would recognise Saudi Arabia as a trading country where the government is diversifying its oil-dependent economy.

- It would give Saudi Arabia a better stage from which to press for more favourable tariffs on its products and eventually the removal of energy taxes, which it sees as discriminatory.

Riyadh wants the West to abolish taxes on imports of energy products, saying they are an obstacle to fair world trade.

But the experts said in return for joining, Saudi Arabia would have to introduce major changes to its economic policies.

World Bank says slums can be rehabilitated

ISTANBUL (R) — The world's worst slums can be turned into livable communities with an investment of some \$100 per person, with the right combination of community involvement and good government policies, the World Bank said Monday.

"Community involvement in both the planning and maintenance of urban projects is key to their success," Ismail Serageldin, World Bank vice-president for environmentally sustainable development, said.

The World Bank, in an analysis coinciding with the United Nations' human settlements summit that began Monday, said the provision of a cheaper version of basic services, such as communal latrines, access to a water standpipe, gravel roads and inexpensive drainage ditches, could enable money to reach a considerably greater number of people in impoverished regions.

These would cost an average \$83 per person in Africa and \$116 per person in Latin America, which is less than a quarter of the cost of metered water connections. Western standard sewage facilities, paved roads and underground drains, the bank said.

Mr. Serageldin said most developing cities now opted for high-priced services only a few people could afford, hurting the chances of the poor.

The World Bank statement said around 230 million poor people had no access to safe water in developing world cities, and an estimated 420 million had no basic sanitation. It said today's backlog, plus future demand, would raise the total of urban population without basic services to 1.4 billion by 2010.

Between 30 and 70 per cent of city dwellers of developing countries are poor.

The statement said, in India's main cities, up to 50 per cent of residents live in congested, haphazard settlements and unhealthy slums lacking city facilities, such as water, sewerage or garbage collection.

"The urban poor, energetic and ingenious as they may be as individuals, are impeded by obstacles no one person can overcome alone," said Mr. Serageldin.

"The lack of basic services — water, sanitation, street drainage, basic roadways — saps their strength and denies society the full contribution they can make," he said.

The bank said it had helped some cities to develop simple affordable solutions, including clean water within short walking distance of homes, simple sanitation, passable roadways and drainage, and would present the habitat conference with a report on its work.

The World Bank said its total lending for urban-oriented projects was around \$25 billion in more than 5,000 cities and towns. It said in the statement it planned to lend a further \$15 billion for urban projects over the next five years.

Russian communists pledge growth but economists doubt

MOSCOW (R) — Top Russian communists have promised to deliver on growth forecasts in their economic plan for the June 16 presidential election but pro-market analysts said the programme could fuel inflation and wreck the budget.

The plan, published in Russian newspapers, forecast 15 years of economic growth, of between four and nine per cent a year, based on boosting domestic production.

"Our people will be able to fulfill it because the figures we have given for growth are moderate and will even be surpassed," said economist Tatyana Koryagina, one of the authors of the programme. "I think it is very realistic."

The plan says the main task is to reverse the fall in production, which has halved since economic reform was launched in 1992. The state would have a key role in managing the economy and regulating prices but there would be a private sector.

"It is a strictly logical programme, not at all populist, and based on pragmatic tasks," Communist Party deputy, Alexei Podbereskin told a news conference.

The programme, called "from destruction to construction", forms the economic platform for Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov, President Boris Yeltsin's main challenger in the poll.

But it contains no inflation forecast, and few details of how it would be funded. The government, opposed by the communists, has made fighting inflation a top priority. Prices rose by just 2.2 per cent in April, the lowest since reform began.

Mr. Podbereskin said inflation was not the main problem.

"The best way to fight

inflation is to increase production," he said, adding he did not think price rises would exceed 4.0-4.5 per cent a month this year.

But Alexei Ulukayev, deputy director of the Institute of the Economy in Transition, said state subsidies and other costs could widen the budget deficit to 15 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and this in turn would lead to a surge in inflation.

"Six months after voting for a communist president, we expect the inflation rate will be higher than 20 per cent a month," he said.

Mr. Ulukayev, whose institute is headed by reformist former acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, said the plan appeared based on old-style economic thinking of the late 1980s.

"For them the economy is the system of inflow and outflow of commodities. They believe they can control the circulation of the economy without a real working monetary system."

For them this inflation rate is just figures," he said.

Christopher Granville, head of research at United City Bank in Moscow described the programme as "catastrophic".

"There is no sign of any grasp that production is only economically worthwhile if the goods and services produced command real demand either at home or abroad at real prices," he added.

He said economic reality would probably push Mr. Zyuganov back to the mainstream but said hyperinflation and the collapse of an economic programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under a \$10.1 billion loan deal earlier this year were possible.

Russia pledged to cut monthly inflation to one per cent in 1996 and keep the budget deficit to five per cent of GDP.

But Ms. Koryagina said she thought a communist government could work with the fund.

Absolutely British Week at Forte Grand

Mr. Hassan Abu Jaber, Managing Director of Najia International and Mr. Ammar Kana'an, General Manager of Forte Grand Amman, are photographed with a London Taxi Cab discussing the participation of Najia International in the forthcoming "Absolutely British" week due at Forte Grand Amman 14th-21st June. Mr. Abu Jaber who is the agent for London Taxis International in the Middle East is determined to see the cab flourish in Jordan. In recent years the London Taxi has been exported successfully worldwide. There are currently 3 vehicles in Jordan.

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

"Of course I'm in a bad mood. If I went to work in a good mood, they'd think I was embezzling."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argillon

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TRYAP
MABLY
RUSSED
LIFEED

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: LADLE ABOVE NORMAL CYMBAL. Answer: What the recruits considered their sergeant — A NAME CALLER

JORDAN ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION The Second Jordanian-International Conference for Mechanical Engineering

The Jordan Engineers Association in cooperation with the University of Jordan will hold the Second Jordanian - International Conference for Mechanical Engineering in June 1997, within the following themes:

1. Energy and Environment.
2. Air conditioning and Refrigeration.
3. Materials, Industries, Manufacturing and Maintenance.
4. Design and Control.

An exhibition will accompany the conference. Researchers and companies are invited to participate. Please write to:

Dr. M. Hammad - chairman of the organizing committee.
P.O.Box 13240 Amman 11942 Jordan Fax: 962-6-848558

THE Daily Crossword by Alan Olschwang

ACROSS

- 1 Lyric poem
- 6 High peaks
- 10 Slaughter
- 14 Equestrian
- 15 Horse
- 16 — contendere
- 17 Temporary expedients
- 20 Poi source
- 21 Type of car
- 22 Insect stage
- 23 Craval
- 25 Recess in a church
- 27 Fleming or Hunter
- 30 Cavort
- 33 Course file
- 37 Steel mill by-product
- 39 — do-well
- 40 Not a weather
- 41 Civil War battle site
- 44 Nice's partner
- 45 Stead
- 46 Sicilian peak: var.
- 47 Shared the victory
- 48 Puts down
- 50 Conger
- 51 Gambling mecca
- 53 Over-the-hill equine
- 55 Flight of steps
- 58 503
- 61 Shah's birthplace
- 65 Bug
- 68 Before: pref.
- 69 Archileci
- 70 Signs of sorrow
- 71 Minimal openers
- 72 North Sea feeder
- 73 Plus

DOWN

- 1 Formerly, once
- 2 Sandwich bread
- 3 Bakery
- 4 by-product
- 5 Station
- 6 Unit of work
- 7 Metallic fabric
- 8 Like the lion: var.
- 9 Kind of serpent
- 10 List
- 11 Asta's mistress
- 12 Cassini
- 13 Mediocore
- 18 Violinist Leopold
- 19 Sibling
- 24 — facto
- 26 Inca land
- 27 Took it easy
- 28 Bellowing
- 29 Loop
- 31 Protein substances
- 32 Ancient Greek valley
- 34 Winged
- 35 Nel
- 36 Type of code
- 38 Educated plane?
- 42 — Bator
- 43 Space org.
- 49 Writer Bagnold
- 52 Before
- 54 Practises philanthropy
- 55 Rebuff
- 56 Louise or Turner
- 57 Italian wine center
- 59 About, in law
- 60 Stravinsky
- 62 Estuaries
- 63 Farm measure
- 64 Cozy abode
- 66 French military leader
- 67 Airport info: abbr.

Peanuts

Andy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JUNE 4, 1996
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Talk over some interest today with your family which could bring much profit for all, however later this evening avoid a tiff with an important person who has your career in his or her hands or this could hurt your success.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Fellow associates and friends can be very helpful during the day today. Don't take on any new interests at this time or there could be adverse conditions present which could be detrimental to your career activities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Spend whatever is necessary to improve conditions at your career activities and forget some secret anxiety. Attend some civic activity and you will get the recognition for your outstanding efforts on their behalf.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) The morning today can be enjoyable provided you keep out of the way of an irate fellow associate. Later this evening will be good for you to proceed on some important new project and get the recognition which you deserve.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You seem to have too much career activities to do today, however if you plan your hours wisely, you can soon finish them and have time for other activities which you do enjoy with close friends and loved ones.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) See a friend today who can give you fine suggestions to gain your ambitions, and later tonight don't go off on any tangents, which could present difficulties to you in the days ahead or you could realise some adverse conditions.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Look to an expert for assistance today with some monetary difficulties, however don't let a close tie interfere with your progress. Later tonight you can visit some close friends and have a good time out on the town.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Some new outlet can be your best bet today and can make headway in your career. Have fun tonight with some close friends in some activity which everyone involved in will thoroughly enjoy some pleasant times.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can come to a far better understanding with your mate today, however tighten your purse strings and make the most of available funds. Later tonight you can have a pleasant evening with your loved ones.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Talk future plans over with an outside fellow associate in the morning today, however later this evening don't lost your temper with anyone, especially those who have the control of your career activities in their hands.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get your career activities completed efficiently early in the day, and don't take on any unnecessary new burdens which could cause additional stress on your life and simply take one day at a time.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Confer with a successful person who has fine ideas for you, to low. This can be a banner day today for you if you do take the suggested presented to heart and follow them to the letter, thereby being quite successful.

Birthstone of June: Emerald — Citrine

Nigeria, Pakistan and Kenya seen as 'most corrupt' countries

BERLIN (AFP) — Nigeria, followed by Pakistan and Kenya, are perceived by businessmen as the world's most corrupt countries, Transparency International (T.I.), a Berlin-based body devoted to fighting corruption said Monday.

New Zealand, followed by Denmark and Sweden, were seen as the least corrupt, according to its second annual corruption perceptions index.

The 1996 index, based on

10 different surveys reflecting businessmen's impressions and perceptions of 54 countries, attributes an "overall integrity rating" of zero to 10, with the most corrupt receiving the lowest figure and the least corrupt the highest.

"A 10 equals an entirely clean country while zero equals a country where business transactions are entirely dominated by kickbacks," T.I. said.

On the bottom end of this

scale, the T.I. index gave a score of 0.69 to Nigeria, 1.00 to Pakistan and 2.21 to Kenya, followed by Bangladesh (2.29), China (2.43) and Cameroon (2.46).

At the top end came New Zealand (9.43), Denmark (9.33) and Sweden (9.08), Finland (9.05), Canada (8.96) and Norway (8.87), to seventh position came Singapore (8.80), ahead of Switzerland (8.76). Britain, Germany and Israel came in 12th, 13th and

14th position, while well towards the bottom end of the scale came Egypt, Colombia, Uganda, the Philippines and Indonesia, occupying 41st to 45th position.

"To the extent that any country has a problem with its ranking, this lies not with the index but rather with the perception that businessmen

polled apparently have of that country," T.I. said — "Their perceptions may not always

be a fair reflection on the state of affairs, but they are a reality."

T.I. emphasised that the findings do not necessarily mean Nigeria is the most corrupt country in the world. "Nigeria is perceived by business people to be the most corrupt country which has been included in our list," it said.

On the 1995 index, which considered 41 countries and did not include Nigeria, Indonesia was perceived to be the most corrupt.

Corruption was perceived to be on the increase in Argentina, China and Russia, among other countries, said index research chief Johann Graf Lambsdorff of Goettingen University, who cited Indonesia and Portugal for their anti-corruption efforts.

T.I. President Peter Eigen, a former senior World Bank official, stressed the important influence on developing countries of corrupt practices by multinational firms.

Mr. Eigen said that while corruption was seen as a problem of the developing world, most bribes associated with international contracts were paid by managers of

firms based in the industrialised world.

He said it was a scandal that most of the governments of industrialised countries had not adopted laws to fight such practices.

The rankings seek to assess the degree of corrupt practices. But T.I. admits that the figures are not objective, saying this would be almost impossible given the concealed or secret nature of corruption.

T.I. refutes the notion that corruption is part of the culture of some countries — often cited as the excuse for paying bribes — and insists it is regarded as illegitimate behaviour in all environments.

Corruption was defined as "The misuse of public power for private benefits," such as the bribing of public officials, taking kickbacks in public procurement or embezzling public funds.

To compute its index, T.I. made a "poll of polls" using management and economic surveys augmented by replies to a Goettingen University Internet service and direct approaches to employees of multinational firms and institutions.

Palestinian-made trousers go on sale in Britain

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Palestinian-made trousers have been exported to Britain for the first time to be sold in leading chain store Marks and Spencer, the British consulate general in occupied Jerusalem has said.

Al Akkad textile factory in the West Bank town of Nablus has sent two shipments of men's casual trousers with the label

"Made in the West Bank and Gaza Strip" to Britain for sale in the stores.

The deal was arranged during a visit by British Prime Minister John Major to the Gaza Strip last year, a statement from the consulate general said.

It said it hoped the pilot venture would lead to further deals and help bring Palestinian textile products up to British standards.

London's City held to ransom by computer blackmailers

LONDON (AFP) — International gangs are holding business houses in the City of London and elsewhere for ransom by threatening to destroy their computer systems unless they pay up, the Sunday Times reported.

It said the "cyber terrorists" had extorted more than 400 million pounds (\$600 million) throughout the world in more than 40 cases since 1993, mainly in Britain and the United States.

Banks, investment companies and stock dealers had paid up secretly so as not to lose the confidence of their

clients, the paper said, quoting British and U.S. government sources.

One victim of the blackmail had paid over 13 million pounds (\$19.5 million) to get rid of a "software bomb" which would have wrecked its computer.

The paper quoted a City of London police inspector as saying they were aware of the problem but that banks seldom complained.

The Sunday Times said that according to the U.S. National Security Agency there were four main "cyber gangs," at least one of which was based in Russia.

ECONOMISTS ORGANISE

A review of news from the Arabic press

Economists organise impact of new Israeli government of Jordanian economy

★ "COUNT to ten before thinking in entering any project," Mohammad Nouredin Al Hammouri, a Jordanian businessman, advises businessmen, who seek cooperation with Israel. Mr. Hammouri is one of a number of investors from Jordan and Palestine who were intending to set up a huge investment project in Jenin but decided to freeze it after the election of Benjamin Netanyahu as the new prime minister in Israel. Being one of the founders of the project, he said: "We were expecting the reelection of Pines to start building the project but the shock has forced us to freeze it until further notice."

The project was capitalised at \$50 million and was expected to employ more than 3,000 technicians and administrative staff. It was to include a cooperative society to raise cattle, a fodder and a dairy factory and a plant to recycle manure and fertilizer. Reacting to the election of Mr. Netanyahu, Mr. Hammouri said: "Businessmen are watching cautiously now... everybody is waiting... we were anxiously waiting for the election results... but the surprise has happened... now we have halted everything." He noted that the project was to commence after six months after having completed the preparatory stages.

Economic analyst Munir Hamameh says that "we cannot rule out the effect of the elections on the economic possibilities of Jordan and (countries) other than Jordan."

Contrary to the view of Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, a former minister of labour and economic analyst, who prefers to wait until the policies of Mr. Netanyahu become clearer to judge the issue objectively, Dr. Hamameh says there is no need to wait.

"The results are clear from now as they run towards deepening the economic recession in the region. The reasons are obvious from the very start with the expectations of a political recession, if not something that is further than recession," Dr. Hamameh stressed.

The analyst sees the leaning towards the far right and extremism in Israel will result in the international private capital freezing its plans for the region against all expectations. He indicates that the investment thrust in the Middle East will stop due to the anxiety and the non-confidence that is supported by the results of the Israeli elections. "Foreign investment will not come to build peace. It will come, if any, after the peace stabilises," he stressed.

Dr. Abdul Jabbar says: "The future relations between Jordan and the new government in Israel might reflect positively by activating the trade between the Kingdom and Israel and, may be, Palestine." He adds that any delay of the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks might reflect somehow or another on the Jordanian economy (Al Dustour).

Financial Jordan Times

In cooperation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Closing 3/15/96	Tokyo Closing 3/15/96
Sterling Pound	1.5513	1.5507**
Deutsche Mark	1.5225	1.5199
Swiss Franc	1.2481	1.2449**
French Franc	5.1525	5.1514**
Japanese Yen	108.05	107.57
European Currency Unit	1.2410	1.2403**

* Data for 3/15
** European Closing for 3/15/96, GMT

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 3/6/1996

Currency	Old	New
U.S. Dollar	0.2040	0.2100
Sterling Pound	1.0962	1.1022
Deutsche Mark	0.4646	0.4669
Swiss Franc	0.5672	0.5700
French Franc	0.1572	0.1579
Japanese Yen	0.0546	0.0579
Dutch Guilder	0.4150	0.4171
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000
Italian Lira	0.0459	0.0461
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

* For 100
* Other Currencies

Currency	Old	New
Bahraini Dinar	1.1620	1.1720
Lebanese Lira	0.044645	0.0441250
Saudi Riyal	0.1870	0.1895
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3310	2.3670
Qatari Riyal	0.1932	0.1945
Egyptian Pound	0.2100	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.8330	1.8410
UAE Dirham	0.1927	0.1933
Czech Republic	0.2215	0.2125
Cypriot Pound	1.4625	1.5125

* For 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

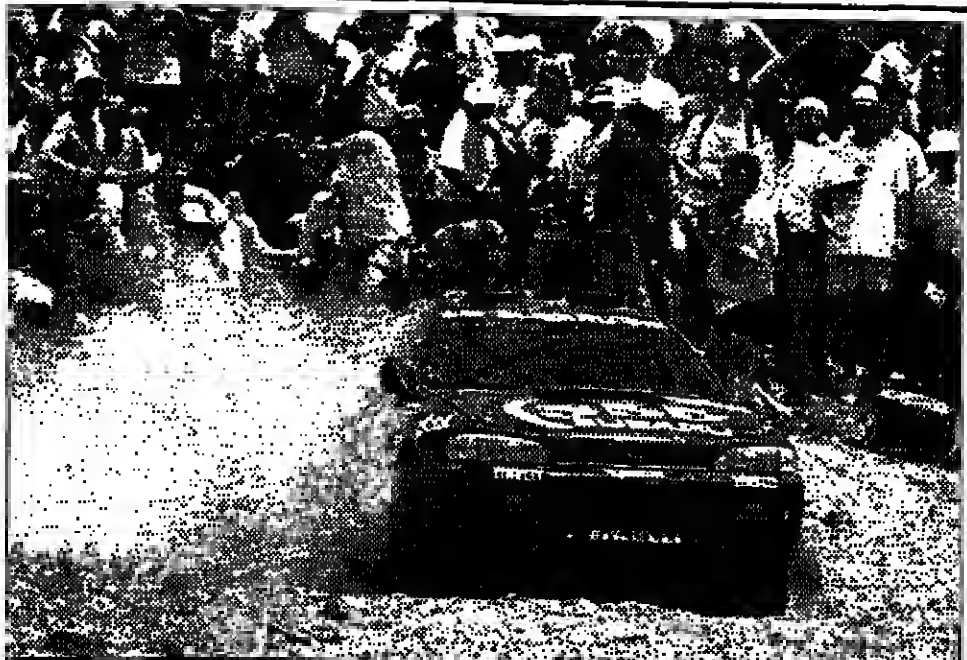
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday:

One U.S. dollar	1.3682/92	Canadian dollar	1.5237/47
	1.7064/74	Deutsche mark	1.2464/74
	31.32/36	Dutch guilders	5.1607/57
	1542.03/5	Swiss francs	107.97/07
	6.7080/80	Belgian francs	6.5150/00
	5.8837/87	French francs	5.8837/87
	1.4073/83	Italian lire	1.4073/83
	0.8014/19	Japanese yen	0.8014/19
	7.7370/80	Singapore dollars	7.7370/80
		Hong Kong dollars	
One Sterling	\$1.5496/06		
Gold (ounce)	\$390.70/31.10		

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET										
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN										
TELEPHONE: 507171 / 507179										
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 03/06/1996										
DATE	12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADING	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
250.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	12.3	1.56	16	460	103150	224.50	224.00	-50
4.830	4.180	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	13.4	3.15	3	632	2795	4.44	4.44	-
4.740	4.250	CALING AMMAN BANK	11.4	2.13	1	100	470	4.70	4.70	-
3.600	3.250	BANK OF JORDAN	12.3	0.00	2	21850	7215	3.44	3.40	-0.04
2.700	2.270	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	5.2	6.39	13	4950	11140	2.27	2.25	-0.02
8.300	4.280	JOR. HOUSING BK.	11.8	3.14	3	2383	10480	4.42	4.40	-0.02
2.040	2.600	JOR. KUMAT BANK	20.3	0.00	3	2000	5618	2.81	2.80	-0.01
1.800	1.920	JOR. BSA BANK	6.0	7.00	8	8100	8114	1.00	1.00	-
4.000	3.700	ARAB JOR. INV. BK.	19.8	0.00	1	2000	7400	3.70	3.70	-
4.180	3.300	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	16.8	0.00	4	2100	4920	3.95	3.91	-0.04
4.650	2.000	UNION BK. JOR. INV.	17.8	0.00	1	500	1000	2.00	2.00	-
4.200	2.080	THE BUSINESS BK.	9.6	0.00	4	1370	2740	2.05	2.00	-0.05
3.900	2.420	BRIT. ISRAEL (JORDAN)	2.7	5.62	27	36150	15999	1.48	1.45	-0.03
1.280	1.410	AMMAN BANK INV.	9	0.00	2	7250	2700	1.21	1.20	-0.01
1.930	1.070	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	2	7250	2700	1.21	1.20	-0.01
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 177.72 %CHG: -0.32 101 63386 187851										
2.910	2.310	JOR. FREEDOM INSUR.	6.6	8.51	1	100	235	2.31	2.38	+0.07
2.970	1.900	SOLEX LAND INSUR.	6.9	0.00	2	245	800	2.21	2.32	+0.11
3.370	2.600	JORDAN CUL. INSUR.	6.3	9.36	2	1700	5050	2.90	2.80	-0.10
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 124.28 %CHG: +0.40 5 2145 6095										
1.930	1.830	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	11.0	7.55	28	23133	36784	1.60	1.59	-0.01
1.560	1.140	JOR. ELECTRICITY	8.3	0.00	2	751	299	1.79	1.42	-0.37
7.100	6.500	VEHIC. OWNERS FED.	14.8	6.06	1	600	3960	6.60	6.60	-
2.960	2.430	SHIPPING LINES	10.2	8.26	2	400	970	2.44	2.42	-0.02
2.730	2.130	RAIL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	10	3200	4444	1.40	1.39	-0.01
1.160	1.000	VEHIC. OWNERS FED.	12.1	2.55	1	2800	4750	1.95	1.95	-
3.660	1.090	ARAB INTL. INV. CO.	12.5	6.35	5	1550	10553	3.12	3.12	-
2.540	1.870	UNION CO.	10.8	4.85	9	2800	5781	2.10	2.06	-0.04
1.200	1.820	UNION LAND DEV.	5	0.00	8	4600	4803	1.06	1.05	-0.01
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 116.10 %CHG: -0.22 56 43364 72442										
1.450	1.270	ASTORIAN	9	0.00	1	250	313	1.25	1.25	-
4.020	3.370	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	13.0	3.00	38	10794	36791	3.38	3.33	-0.05
3.700	2.900	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	32.5	0.00	5	249	749	3.01	3.02	+0.01
5.960	4.750	ARAB FOSPH. CO.	14.2	3.74	5	250	13075	5.35	5.35	-
10.850	8.900	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	13.8	5.83	30	2415	24925	20.87	20.30	-0.57
8.000	7.000	JORDAN TANNING	7.8	4.93	1	100	730	7.15	7.30	+0.15
4.720	7.100	JOR. WOODSTOCK MILLS	9.2	3.47	1	250	1800	7.10	7.20	+0.10
1.700	2.400	ARAB PHARM. IND.	22.0	0.00	23	4139	15120	3.70	3.64	-0.06
6.480	5.800	JOR. CHEMICAL IND.	7.7	4.03	23	1189	1189	6.20	6.20	-
2.660	2.000	JOR. PIPES MANUF.	11.5	5.80	1	150	311	2.07	2.07	-
6.360	4.550	ARAB ALUM. IND.	7.1	8.89	2	950	4275	4.55	4.50	-0.05
4.740	4.60	LEVERMORE & POLYMER	9	0.00	51	71350	38965	1.54	1.54	-
1.500	1.240	ARAB BANK CONV. STD.	8.3	0.00	10	7150	8780	1.24	1.22	-0.02
1.450	1.440	NATIONAL IND.	12.3	7.23	10	5850	4962	1.84	1.82	-0.02
2.800	1.060	INTERPAC. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	44	27221	39145	1.45	1.44	-0.01
1.700	1.830	JOR. ROYAL IND.	9	0.00	1	250	273	1.09	1.09	-
5.250	2.850	HAGL. CARB. MIN. WARE	22.4	0.00	22	3750	13886	3.67	3.68	+0.01
1.800	1.950	JOR. SOLEPH. CHEM.	9	0.00	8	2050	2136	1.06	1.04	-0.02
2.320	1.080	ARAB PETROL. CHEM.	38.1	0.00	5	500	750	2.58	2.54	-0.04
3.560	2.380	UNIV. MED. IND.	7.7	7.87	3	400	1022	1.48	1.50	+0.02
2.390	1.380	JOR. INTL. RESOURCES	20.1	0.00	39	14050	22508	1.62	1.60	-0.02
2.900	1.000	JOR. KIM CARB. CO.	30.7	0.00	17	10200	11536	1.15	1.13	-0.02
2.630	1.830	EL. KAY READY WARE	9	0.00	15	5487	8996	1.83	1.81	-0.02
1.560	1.180	INTL. TORPACCO	29.4	0.00	23	1750	9723	1.27	1.25	-0.02
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 114.01 %CHG: -0.42 357 178095 262127										
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 145.50 %CHG: -0.34 529 286990 528516										
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 03/06/1996										
DATE	12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADING	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
1.000	1.000	JOR. JORDAN PAC.	19.7	0.00	2	1750	1292	1.10	1.16	+0.06
1.100	1.000	ZARA FOR INVESTMENT	22.9	0.00	2	250	250	1.10	1.16	+0.06
1.000	1.000	UNION INV. SOI	77.5	0.00	2	122	38	0.81	0.81	-
1.530	1.430	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	10	6500	6640	0.79	0.79	-
1.340	1.340	JOR. KING HAYES-JERICO	9	0.00	4	5000	3050	0.62	0.61	-0.01
1.160	1.160	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	12	2070	2076	1.68	1.68	-0.01
1.940	1.380	KATL. CHLORINE	9	0.00	10	9200	14282	1.57	1.55	-0.02
1.880	1.880	ARAB INV. TRV. IND.	9	0.00	7	2650	3015	1.52	1.52	-
1.220	1.600	NATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	7	2650	20497	1.78	1.78	-
1.100	1.370	NATL. MULT. ENG. KAWAZO	9	0.00	20	14550	8615	3.84	3.84	-
1.150	1.370	KAYKAK DISH & MUGOLA	9	0.00	20	2802	2609	3.84	3.84	-
1.000	1.800	UNION INVEST	9	0.00	7	2802	2609	3.84	3.84	-
1.030	1.670	MURKAT PHARM. 752	9	0.00	11	3542	3470	1.24	1.21	-0.03
1.890	1.100	UNION TORPACCO 752	9	0.00	11	3542	3470	1.24	1.21	-0.03
1.030	1.680	RAZI PHARM. 658	9	0.00	4	1065	396	1.73	1.73	-
1.070	1.370	UNION. ENG.	35.7	0.00	19	10215	5929	5.99	5.98	-0.01
1.520	1.880	IND. CHEMICAL	9	0.00	7	2380	2578	1.81	1.81	-
1.800	1.700	NID. EAST COMPLEX	8.4	0.00	6	3650	2578	1.81	1.81	-
5.500	3.950	ARAB STEEL PIPES	10.9	6.25	4	14700	58600	4.15	4.00	-0.15
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 145.50 %CHG: -0.34 529 286990 528516										

Schwarthoff inspires Germany to 3rd successive

T O D A Y A T	CINEMA TEL: 634144 PHILADELPHIA Before Sunrise Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL: 699238 PLAZA MALICE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 * Toy Story Show: 5:00	CINEMA TEL: 677420 CONCORD CONCORD "1" Clint Eastwood & Meryl Streep in *The Bridges of Madison County Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 <hr/> CONCORD "2" *Pelican Brief Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Hamman Theatre & Cinema TEL: 618274, 618275 Will Shortly present Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in a play entitled Five-Star Government Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimeh & Hussein Tubeishat	Noble & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155 PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights Starts Monday, May 13 at 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155 - 640155
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Colin McRae of Britain drives his 555 Subaru during the Zemen 5th special stage on the first leg of the 43rd Acropolis Rally in central Greece June 2. McRae clocked 01:48:06 and leads the race after the first day (REUTERS photo)

McRae maintains his lead

PIRI, GREECE (AFP) — Scotsman Colin McRae continued to dominate the Acropolis Rally in his Subaru Impreza when the second day's stages began Monday.

Defending World Champion McRae had covered the first 10 special stages in 2hr 17min 28sec, a lead of 1:29 over Finland's Tommi Makinen, the current world championship leader, in a Mitsubishi Lancer.

Kenneth Eriksson of Sweden, also in a Subaru Impreza, was in third place, 2:10 in arrears, after fortune smiled on him late Monday.

Eriksson lost seven minutes on the sixth special stage, which subsequently was declared null and void by stewards for technical reasons.

Monday morning's sessions were relatively quiet with the exception of the withdrawal of Briton Stephen Finlay (Ford Escort) on stage 10 with suspension problems.

"At first we thought it was a big steering problem, but it was actually the front suspension that was broken," Finlay said.

The 1,204km rally continues through to Tuesday.

Galaxy remain only unbeaten MLS team

TAMPA (R) — Whether at home or on the road, the Los Angeles Galaxy continues to find ways to win.

The Galaxy remained the only unbeaten team in Major League Soccer, upending the Tampa Bay Mutiny 2-1 in a confrontation of conference leaders Saturday night.

Harut Karapetyan scored in the 59th minute to break a 1-1 deadlock and lift Los Angeles to a perfect 8-0 record.

Guillermo Lara also scored for the Galaxy, to begin a three-game road trip. The Galaxy, which enjoys a 10-point lead over the Dallas Burn (6-4) in the Western Conference, travels to New England Thursday and to New York Sunday.

Los Angeles had played five of its first seven games at home in the Rose Bowl.

Roy Lassiter scored his sixth goal for Eastern Conference leader Tampa Bay (6-3), which had its three-game winning streak snapped.

The San Jose Clash (5-5) won twice in the week, edging the slumping Kansas City Wiz on Wednesday 2-1, and then bested the Columbus Crew (3-6) in a shootout, 3-2, Saturday.

Eric Wynalda, the U.S.'s leading international scorer, returned after missing a match with a separated shoulder and scored a goal in each half of San Jose's win over Kansas City.

Yari Allnat had the lone goal for Kansas City (5-6), which played without injured striker Frank Klompas and Digital Takawira, who was with the Zimbabwean national team for a World Cup qualifier.

D.C. United (4-7), which entered the week without a victory in five away matches, won twice on the road.

United, which had not played in 12 days, recorded a 2-1 victory over the New York/New Jersey MetroStars (4-6) and new coach Carlos Queiroz Thursday.

Bolivian midfielder Marco Etcheverry set up both of United's goals — by Steve Rammel and Tony Sanchez.

A.J. Wood became the first player other than Giovanni Savarese to score for the MetroStars, but former U.S. National team captain Peter Vermes missed a penalty kick that would have equalised in the 82nd minute.

United won again Sunday, outlasting the Colorado Rapids (4-6) in a shootout in Denver, 3-2, as goalkeeper Jeff Causey made four saves in the shootout.

Shawn Medvedy Etcheverry, and Erik Inler converted their attempts for United, which got regulation goals from El Salvadoran native Raul Diaz Arce and John Maessner, who scored with two minutes remaining.

Former U.S. International Jean Harbour scored one goal and set up Steve Tritschuh's goal. Harbour also converted a penalty kick in Colorado's 2-0 win over Dallas earlier in the week as Chris Henderson also tallied.

New York/New Jersey rebounded with a 1-0 victory over the slumping Burn in Dallas on Wood's goal in the 60th minute as former U.S. World Cup goalkeeper Tony Meola made several big saves.

The Kansas City Wiz (5-6) registered a 2-1 victory over the New England Revolution (4-4) as Scottish forward Mo Johnston scored off a header in the 89th minute. Preki also tallied for the winners, while Paul Keegan scored the lone goal for New England.

Right tire choice helps Andretti to Indycar win

WEST ALLIS, Wisconsin (R) — Michael Andretti's choice of stickier tires gave him the grip he needed to overtake Al Unser Jr. and win the Milwaukee 200 Indycar race Sunday.

Andretti averaged 128.282 miles per hour (206.444 kph) in his Lola Ford Cosworth, finishing .019 seconds ahead of Unser's Penske Mercedes-Benz Ilmor, thanks to a late restart in the race that concluded under a caution flag.

Unser's teammate, Canadian Paul Tracy, was the only other driver to hold a lead in the 200-lap race at the Milwaukee mile oval track and finished third.

Brazilian Emerson Fittipaldi in another Penske Mercedes-Benz Ilmor, and Greg Moore of Canada in a Reynard Mercedes-Benz Ilmor finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

Unser had dominated the race, leading twice for a total of 98 laps, and was running first, more than five seconds ahead of Andretti, when the third caution was raised on lap 188.

When the green came out with six laps remaining, Andretti passed Unser on the outside of turn two.

French Open

Muster, Ivanisevic eliminated as Courier advances

PARIS (Agencies) — Defending champion Thomas Muster was upset by Michael Stich in the fourth round of the French Open Monday.

Stich, the 15th seed, served 23 aces to beat the second-seeded Austrian, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1, 7-6 (7-1). Stich dropped his racket after hitting a forehand volley into the open court, and the crowd rose to a standing ovation.

It was only Muster's fourth loss on clay in two years. Stich, who only returned recently from an achilles injury, decided to play in Paris at the last moment.

Muster was up 5-2 in the fourth set but Stich woo four of the next five games to force the tiebreaker. Fate seemed to be on Stich's side when he woo the first point of the tiebreaker on a forehand that tipped the top of the net and fell over.

Muster won the next point on a serve return, but Stich woo the next six points to close out the match.

Ivanisevic fails after fall

Blisters and a heavy baseline fall in the opening rally put fifth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic firmly on course for a shock 3-6, 1-6, 2-6 fourth-round defeat when he played Germany's Bernd Karbacher for a place in the quarter-finals of the men's singles at the French Open.

Karbacher, 28 ranked a modest 56th in the world, now plays either Switzerland's Olympic champion Marc Rosset or Sweden's Stefan Edberg.

Ivanisevic rolled over on the red clay chasing down a deep drive from his unseeded German opponent on the very first point and was clearly unsettled in subsequent games.

To make matters worse he slipped again in the sixth game. With his big service missing, his groundstrokes spraying just about every corner of the centre-court arena except the court itself, and with his racket being regularly burred down and abused — Ivanisevic was lucky to escape with just a warning.

In the first set he dropped three of his five service games and then trailed 0-5 in the second before calling on the trainer for a three minute injury 'time-out'.

He continued after being treated for a badly blistered foot — but there was no way back into the match.

Karbacher, playing efficient and accurate tennis and 'outacing' the 'aceman' 14-2 in the 80-minute match, had not got past the third-round in four previous visits and he had not posted any real form before arriving in the French capital.

In his 13 previous tournaments, Karbacher had won only seven matches. Defeat was a bitter pill to swallow for Ivanisevic.

The 24-year-old left-hander, three-times a quarter-finalist in seven previous Roland Garros campaigns, had been looking increasingly impressive after disposing of Jordi Arrese of Spain, David Wheaton of the United States and Bohdan Ulihrach of the Czech Republic without dropping a set.

No miracle as Coetzer returns

There was no last-minute reprieve for South Africa's Amanda Coetzer when she returned to the sun-drenched Suzanne Lenglen showcourt at the Roland Garros stadium to face powerful third-seeded Conchita Martinez for a place in the women's singles quarter-finals.

Trailing 2-6, 1-4 late Sunday when championship play was halted by rain, the 14th-seeded Coetzer, a quarter-finalist at the Spanish Open two weeks ago, went out 2-6, 3-6. The last four games all went with serve.

Martinez, 24, who has been named by defending champion Steffi Graf as the player she most fears as she campaigns for a fifth singles crown, now plays powerful ninth-seeded Lindsay Davenport of the United States.

Davenport put out last year's semi-finalist Kimiko Date in a three-set thriller Sunday.

Sampras and Seles through to last eight

Pete Sampras, with two fierce five-set battles behind him, took another stride towards the French Open title with a dominant 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 win over Australian Scott Draper Sunday, to move into the quarter-finals.

Bot Monica Seles was, in many ways, even more

impressive, winning a mental battle of her own as well as crushing 13th seed Magdalena Maleeva in 52 minutes to win through to the last eight.

The Yugoslav-born American confirmed she was back to her best, sweeping past the Bulgarian 6-1 6-1.

The last time Seles met Maleeva was in Hamburg, on April 30, 1993, when she was stabbed by a Steffi Graf fan and subsequently gave up tennis for 27 months.

"I did not sleep well last night. I was pretty nervous and edgy about playing that match," she said.

The stabbing happened during the changeover after the seventh game of the second set. This time, the same game allowed Seles to finish off Maleeva and to reach the last eight here for the fifth time in five appearances.

"At the changeover, it was really tough but I knew that before coming in. I told myself to keep going and to try not to think about it. That's what I did," she said.

Seles, who won here in 1990, 1991 and 1992, has not been beaten in Paris since June 1989, when she lost in the semi-finals of her first Grand Slam tournament to oow joint world number one Steffi Graf.

In the men's quarter-finals, Sampras will meet compatriot Jim Courier, winner here in 1991 and 1992.

Courier beat south African Wayne Ferreira 4-6 6-1 6-3 6-3 and said afterwards: "I'm looking forward to the match against Pete very much even if on paper, you would obviously say Pete would win that match."

Top seed Graf had to fight for an hour and 31 minutes to dismiss American Mary Joe Fernandez in a rematch of the 1993 final.

After cruising through the first set 6-1, Graf trailed 4-0 in the second set tie-break before fighting back. But she still had difficulty clinching the match as Fernandez, seeded 11th, saved four match points.

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Israeli parties battle for posts in cabinet

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu began detailed bargaining Monday to form a coalition government but quickly ran into trouble with religious and other right-wing groups demanding more cabinet jobs than he has to offer.

The chief of Mr. Netanyahu's transition team, Avigdor Lieberman, was meeting one-by-one with the leaders of six small parties invited to form a governing majority in parliament with the new prime minister's Likud Party.

Likud sources said the talks quickly ran into a problem of arithmetics since new Israeli election laws limit Mr. Netanyahu in naming a maximum of 17 ministers and six deputy ministers, while demands for cabinet posts by potential coalition partners far surpassed the ceiling.

Mr. Netanyahu meanwhile began the day by briefing President Ezer Weizman on the broad policy guidelines of his yet-to-be named government, officials said.

The meeting was above all one of protocol since under the new Israeli election law Mr. Netanyahu was directly elected prime minister by the voters in national elections last Wednesday.

In parallel elections to the Knesset, Israel's 120-member parliament, the right-wing Likud alliance won 32 seats, compared to 34 for the Labour Party of defeated Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

To build a workable majority, Likud is focussing its coalition building effort first on three Jewish fundamentalist parties, the Sephardic ultra-orthodox Shas Party which won 10 seats, the far-right National Religious Party (NRP, nine seats) and the Ashkenazi ultra-orthodox United Torah Judaism (four seats).

Also involved were a party of Russian-speaking immigrants which has seven seats, the centrist Third Way party, a breakaway faction from Labour that won four Knesset seats, and the far-right Moledet, with two seats.

Strengthened by his direct election as prime minister.

Mr. Netanyahu took a hard initial line with the parties, and notably the religious groups whose arrival in power has many secular Israelis fearing a fundamentalist crackdown.

Mr. Lieberman said Mr. Netanyahu had dictated four principles that had to be accepted by all coalition members, beginning with insistence that he would not increase the number of cabinet posts beyond the 17 allowed by law and that Likud would retain a majority of nine portfolios even though the party holds less than half the proposed coalition's seats in parliament.

The new prime minister also reiterated that the expected heavy presence of fundamentalist parties in the coalition would not lead to any change in the "status quo" governing religious legislation.

The fourth point was that

the new government would carry out large-scale privatisation of state companies, a move which will reduce the responsibilities and patronage possibilities for a number of cabinet ministers.

Leaders of the three religious groups in the Knesset met late Sunday to coordinate their conditions for joining government.

"The religious parties have joined together to form a single unit in the negotiations and avoid internal divisions in our demands," said Aryeh Deri, head of the Shas Party. "There can be no coalition without us."

But the religious parties' initial demands were in direct contradiction with Mr. Netanyahu's rules.

The NRP was demanding three cabinet jobs, including education and religious affairs, while Shas also wanted three, including interior ministry and communications.

If granted, these requests would push a Likud cabinet up to 15 even before talks with the Russian immigrants, Third Way and Moledet.

Likud officials said Mr. Netanyahu wanted to wrap up the coalition agreement before choosing which Likud members would hold key posts governing the economy and the peace process.

The only portfolio which appeared certain was the foreign minister's job which was tipped to go to David Levy, who held the post in the previous Likud government from 1988 to 1992.

King, Arab fund chief discuss economic development Fund, Jordan sign \$100 million loan for Aqaba Thermal Power Plant

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received on Monday at the Royal Court the chairman of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Abdul Latif Al Hamad. The King and Mr. Hamad discussed issues related to Arab economic development and the role of the fund to finance economic projects.

Attending the meeting were Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh and Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan also received Mr. Hamad and discussed the development process in the Kingdom and the cooperation between Jordan and the fund.

Earlier, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti received at his office Mr. Hamad and discussed with him scopes of cooperation between Jordan and the fund, particularly in financing economic projects in the Kingdom.

"We highly appreciate the



His Majesty King Hussein on Monday meets with Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development Chairman Abdul Latif Al Hamad (Petra photo)

role of the fund in bolstering economic development in the Arab region," Mr. Kabariti told Mr. Hamad.

Mr. Hamad said he briefed the prime minister on the duties of the fund and the activities it is interested in.

\$100m loan signed
Later on Monday, Dr.

Khalaf and Mr. Hamad signed an agreement under which the fund would provide a loan of \$100 million to Jordan to help finance the expansion of the Aqaba Thermal Power Plant.

Dr. Khalaf and Mr. Hamad also signed another

agreement under which the fund would give Jordan \$600,000 in technical aid.

Mr. Hamad said the fund had contributed to financing many projects in Jordan in the last 20 years, including the King Talal Dam and the King Abdullah Hospital and others.

Mrs. Rabin welcomes Netanyahu speech, cautions him to be careful

TEL AVIV (AP) — The widow of Yitzhak Rabin on Monday welcomed Benjamin Netanyahu's stated commitment to peace, but cautioned him that he might become a target for Israeli extremists if he continued in her husband's path.

Leah Rabin's remarks were the most conciliatory since the November assassination of her husband by a right-wing Jew who said he wanted to derail the government's land-for-peace policies.

At the time, Mrs. Rabin accused Mr. Netanyahu, the leader of the right-wing opposition, of creating the political climate of rancor and suspicion that led to her husband's killing.

Mr. Netanyahu, 46, won last week's election by a narrow margin, edging out Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Mr. Rabin's partner in peace.

"I gladly receive his statements that he will continue the peace process," Mrs. Rabin said Monday, responding to Mr. Netanyahu's victory speech.

"He could give us no greater pleasure or satisfaction because this is the major

issue, the peace process that Yitzhak started and had hoped to continue," she said on Israel Radio.

Using an Arab expression that has become part of Hebrew slang, Mrs. Rabin warned Mr. Netanyahu to watch his back if he planned to pursue her husband's path.

"Dehilarabak (for God's sake), take care of yourself and make sure they guard you well," she said.

Security around Mr. Netanyahu has increased since he won Wednesday's election.

The daily Yediot Ahronot ran a picture Monday of a slogan painted in blue in the Jerusalem municipality square that read: "Bibi will fall yet. The left too has a Yigal Amir," referring to Mr. Rabin's assassin. Bibi is Mr. Netanyahu's widely used nickname.

In an interview with Newsweek magazine, Mrs. Rabin said it was difficult for her to forget Mr. Netanyahu's behaviour towards her husband. As opposition leader, Mr. Netanyahu spoke at many and government rallies during which activists shouted slogans such as "Rabin is a traitor" and

"Rabin is a murderer."

At one rally, some demonstrators handed out posters showing a photo montage of Mr. Rabin in a Nazi uniform.

"We will never forget the sight of Mr. Netanyahu standing on a terrace in a big demonstration in Jerusalem and down there was my husband's figure hanging in the uniform of a Nazi agent," Mrs. Rabin told Newsweek.

"He (Netanyahu) claims he didn't see. I don't know what it takes to forget it, and to reconcile."

Mrs. Rabin said that if there was to be a rapprochement, "the approach would have to be from his side."

In her interview with Israel Radio Monday, Mrs. Rabin also said she never meant to leave the country in the wake of the Netanyahu victory. On election night, she had said she would like to pack her suitcases if Mr. Netanyahu defeated Mr. Peres.

"I wouldn't say I am happy about it, but these are the results of the election and we have to accept them," Mrs. Rabin said.

She also repeated her veiled criticism of Mr. Peres, saying his campaign did not

make enough use of her husband's assassination to win voter sympathies.

She said her husband would have resigned as Labour Party leader had he been defeated in the elections. "He would take the responsibility upon himself as the person at the top of the pyramid," she said.

Shamir wants accords scrapped

Former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir urged Mr. Netanyahu to renege on Israel's peace agreements with the Palestinians and step up construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Shamir, who was prime minister 1986-1992, believes that Israel has a "God-given right" to keep the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Throughout his rule, he adopted a "not an inch" position in negotiations with the Arabs.

During his final two years in office, Mr. Shamir presided over a massive settlement drive in the West Bank and Gaza. Mr. Shamir, who

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Lebanon prepares for polls in August

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese Interior Minister Michel Al Murr was quoted on Monday as saying preparations were under way to hold parliamentary elections starting on Aug. 18.

"We are preparing for elections as if they were to take place on Aug. 18," Mr. Murr was quoted by newspapers as saying after meeting Maronite Patriarch Cardinal Nasrallah Sfeir on Sunday.

He said the election would go ahead unless "a big military incident" took place — a reference to Israel's massive 17-day bombardment of Lebanon in April. Elections would start on Aug. 18 and continue on the following four consecutive Sundays.

The government is trying to draft a new electoral law to present to parliament but faces a controversy over the size of the electoral districts.

Druze leader Walid Junblatt, an ally of Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri, wants Mount Lebanon province divided in two to give his small community its own constituency and ensure it is not overwhelmed by Christian voters who form a majority in the province.

Asked about Palestinians Sfeir's position on the issue, Mr. Murr said: "Cardinal Sfeir says the law should make all areas equal."

Mr. Sfeir, the most powerful Christian voice in Lebanon, says constituencies should either be based on Lebanon's five provinces or on the smaller cazas (districts) of which there are up to seven per province. He says there should be no exceptions.

The Christians fear an imbalanced electoral law might undermine their representation in parliament.

Most Christians and many Muslims boycotted 1992 elections, partly because Mount Lebanon and the eastern Bekaa Valley were divided into districts while other areas voted on a provincial basis. Christians said this minimised their representation.

The boycott was also a protest against the presence of 35,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon.

Iraq opposition reports 11 explosions in Takrit

ERBIL (Agencies) — A series of 11 explosions ripped through an air base near Takrit in northern Iraq, destroying several warplanes and helicopters, the opposition said Monday.

"A number of repeated explosions, continuing for 20 minutes, was heard coming from the big Iraqi air force base near Takrit," said an opposition radio broadcasting from Kurdish-held northern Iraq.

The radio of the Iraqi National Congress opposition coalition said the blasts on May 25 destroyed "seven Sukhoi-22 and three Mig-23 jet aircraft as well as a helicopter gunship."

"A warehouse containing ammunition and spare parts was also destroyed. Debris was scattered all over the runway," the radio added, without specifying what caused the explosions.

The radio said telephone contact with Takrit, the home region of President Saddam Hussein, was cut off for two days. The base was cordoned off and roads leading to the site closed.

It also said Iraqi armed forces Chief of Staff Brigadier General Abdul Wahid

Shiban Al Rabbat and a team of security officers had arrived at the base. All base personnel had been detained for interrogation, it said.

Local officials elected

Iraqis have elected almost 5,000 city and provincial representatives for the first time under reforms aimed at delegating more local authority on economic and other matters, officials said Monday.

Interior Minister Mohammad Zaman Abdul Razzak said in Baghdad 4,711 officials had been elected from 6,165 candidates who ran as members of the ruling Baath Party or as independents in the Thursday-Friday polls.

He did not say how many Baathists won seats.

The city and provincial assemblies will decide on municipal, cultural, health, economic and religious questions. Two-thirds of the assemblies are made up of elected officials and the rest of government-appointed civil servants.

Since 1972 such assemblies had been run entirely by government officials.

Last week was the third time in eight months that Iraqis have gone to the polls.

Iraq still smuggling fuel through Gulf, U.S. says

DUBAI (R) — U.S.-led multinational patrols diverted one sanctions-busting ship trying to smuggle diesel fuel or dates from Iraq every three to four days on average so far this year, a U.S. Navy spokesman said on Monday.

"It is substantially high in terms of number especially in November and December. Since the beginning of the year there has been a steady flow. We are diverting one vessel every three or four days on average," Commander T. McCreary said.

He said eight vessels, four carrying diesel fuel and four dates and fertiliser, were diverted in the past month. They were loaded with 5,700 tonnes of fuel and 500 tonnes of dates and 2,000 bags of fertiliser.

Some tried to escape into Iranian territorial waters, but were stopped. "We have seen a couple of attempts to move towards Iranian waters, but we were able to stop them in international waters and board them," spokesman McCreary said.

So far this year 36 vessels from Iraq — which last month reached a deal with

the United Nations on a partial resumption of oil exports — have been diverted for violating sanctions. Nine were carrying fuel and the rest — mainly small wooden boats called abwas — were carrying dates.

Shipping sources said in May that since March Iraq had renewed attempts to smuggle diesel fuel exports in Gulf waters for the first time since August.

The multinational force has been checking shipping in the Gulf to enforce a U.N. trade embargo imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Iraq has complained to the United Nations that the patrols violated its territorial waters.

Shipping sources said the vessels carrying diesel oil had false Iranian papers claiming they had loaded at the Iranian port of Abadan.

Iran had repeatedly denied U.S. claims it was cooperating with Iraq to violate U.N. sanctions and has protested to the U.N. about what it calls the illegal presence in the Gulf of U.S. forces.

Czech prime minister fights for survival after elections

PRAGUE (R) — Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus launched a battle for his political life on Monday, vowing to hold onto power after weekend elections stripped him of his parliamentary majority.

In an interview with the pro-government Telegraf newspaper, Mr. Klaus suggested a minority regrouping of his coalition, the last conservative government in Eastern Europe, was probably the only option left for the country.

"I don't see a lot of further possibilities... we must begin to work intensively on this," he told Telegraf.

Official results on Monday confirmed what computer projections had forecast: Mr. Klaus's coalition won only 99 seats in the new 200-member parliament, down from 112.

Mr. Klaus said no mainstream parties would want to deal with the little-reformed communists or far-right republicans which together won 40 seats in the elections on

Friday and Saturday.

The jockeying was between Mr. Klaus's Civic Democratic Party, his two junior coalition partners and the Social Democrats who surprised analysts by winning 61 seats.

President Vaclav Havel, the man who negotiated the capitulation of communism in the country's 1989 "velvet revolution," stepped back into the political fray.

He summoned Mr. Klaus, Social Democrat Chairman Milos Zeman and the leaders of the two junior coalition partners, the Christian Democrats and the centre-right Civic Democratic Alliance to separate talks in his offices.

Official results showed that Mr. Klaus's Civic Democratic Party emerged strongest with 68 seats.

But Mr. Klaus's three-party coalition was undermined by an unexpectedly strong vote for the Social Democrats under economist Milos Zeman.

Turks killed Greek-Cypriot soldier in Nicosia — officials

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish troops shot and killed an unarmed Greek Cypriot soldier on Monday in a United Nations controlled buffer zone dividing the capital of Cyprus, Cypriot military officials said.

Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides condemned the shooting as "cold-blooded murder."

The 19-year-old soldier was shot twice at 6:30 a.m. local time (0330 GMT) west of central Nicosia. Defence Ministry official Andreas Charides told Reuters.

"He was unarmed... at this moment we don't know if he was shot by one Turk or two, we are still investigating," he said.

There have been no reports of the Greek Cypriot side returning the fire.

The dead soldier was identified as Stelios Panayil, a refugee from the Turkish-occupied village of Kythrea in north Cyprus.

The incident on the tense "green line" dividing the is-

land came on the day British diplomat David Hannay was due to arrive in a fresh effort to work towards a Cyprus settlement.

Turkey has some 30,000 troops in northern Cyprus, which it seized during an invasion in July 1974 in the wake of a short-lived coup in capital Nicosia inspired by the Greek military junta.

The Turkish-occupied areas have been described in United Nations reports as one of the most densely militarised areas in the world.

The area where the soldier was shot comes under the jurisdiction of the United Nations peacekeeping force on the island, UNFICYP.

A British contingent of troops are responsible for maintaining the integrity of the buffer zone in the area where the youth was shot.

A similar incident occurred in 1993, where a Greek Cypriot soldier was killed approaching a Turkish army sentry post east of Nicosia. He was also unarmed.

By-election boosts Turkey's Islamists

ANKARA (AFP) — Weekend by-elections in Turkey have given a huge boost to the pro-Islamic Welfare Party and may spell the end of the political leadership of former Prime Minister Tansu Ciller.

A triumphant Welfare Party leader Necmettin Erbakan, wasting no time, on Monday called on Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz to resign and make way for a new Islamic-led government.

"The by-election results clearly indicate that the Turkish people want Welfare in the government," Mr. Erbakan told supporters at his party headquarters after midnight.

"I advise Prime Minister Yilmaz to resign immediately. I also call on the other parties to accept a new government formed by us," he said.

Welfare, Turkey's main opposition party, garnered 34 per cent of the votes in Sunday's election, the highest tally ever, and won mayorships in three big cities.

Political analysts and the Turkish media described the by-elections as the first important gauge of public opinion since general elections in December when Welfare became the country's biggest party but fell short of an outright majority in parliament.

Prime Minister Yilmaz's right-wing Motherland Party trailed Welfare with 21 per cent, but the main loser was his former coalition ally, ex-Premier Tansu Ciller, whose conservative True Path Party won only 12 per cent of the votes.

The result was the worst

since True Path was founded in 1983 and drew angry reactions from her opponents in the party.

"Those who caused this major defeat should bear the consequences," said Ibrahim Yasar Dedelek, one of Mr. Ciller's key rivals within the True Path Party.

Mr. Dedelek told reporters that he and 18 other rivals of Mr. Ciller in the 134-seat True Path group in parliament met early Monday and discussed ways to save the party, possibly by ousting the former premier.

Analysts here said a parliamentary investigation of Mr. Ciller, 49, for alleged corruption may be the main cause of True Path's fall.

Parliament last month decided to open enquiries against Turkey's first woman prime minister regarding

allegations of corruption in two privatisation cases during her tenure.

"All indications show that Ms. Ciller's political leadership is heading for an end," Derya Sazak, editor-in-chief of the Istanbul-based daily Milliyet said.

Milliyet and other liberal newspapers also criticised the former premier and her successor Mr. Yilmaz for their bitter fight for the leadership of Turkey's mainstream right-wing.

The Turkish people are frustrated by the pointless fight between the two leaders and the government's failure. This is why the support behind Welfare is growing every day," said Gungor Mecgi, chief columnist of the liberal daily Sahaf.

COLUMN 8

Duchess writes down her aims in life — 22 times a day

LONDON (AFP) — The Duchess of York is getting over the trauma of her recent divorce from Prince Andrew by copying out her aims in life 22 times a day, she said in an interview with a new weekly magazine published Monday. The former Sarah Ferguson told Here magazine that she had learned the method from Michael Rowland, a 46-year-old Englishman living in Australia, after reading a book he wrote on obtaining personal happiness. "It has really helped to soften the trauma of divorce," she said. "My aim now is to lead an enjoyable and fulfilling life and to leave the past behind, having learned its lessons." Mr. Rowland, who had several daily sessions with the duchess, was quoted as saying, "For once in her life, everything started to go right, and it's all because she is now in control... I am truly amazed by the radical transformation in Sarah." The couple's divorce after 10 years of marriage was finally pronounced last Thursday.

Fear of anti-Christ spurs wave of baptisms

BOGOTA, Colombia (R) — Thousands of devout Catholics are rushing to baptise their children at churches throughout Colombia's capital after a rumour foretold the arrival of the anti-Christ, a local television programme reported Sunday. NTC Noticias said churches had baptised more than 7,000 children in less than six hours over the weekend as a rumour had parents rushing apparently to save the souls of their children before Thursday, June 6. Television images showed throngs of people with babies in their arms at the entrance of a church in downtown Bogota that is famous for receiving pilgrimages seeking miraculous favours. "They told me that children who had not been baptised would disappear and that scared me," a young woman told the programme while holding her baby close to her bosom. The programme said parents feared their children would be marked with 666 — the number of the beast as described in the Revelations of the Holy Bible — if they were not baptised before that day, which will be the sixth day of the sixth month of a year ending with six. According to the Apocalyptic section of the Bible, the son of Satan is to be born bearing that number on his head with the intent of taking over the world before Judgment Day.

2,400 Japan hospitals using unheated blood products

TOKYO (AFP) — Some 2,400 Japanese hospitals have been using unheated blood products which were possibly contaminated with the HIV virus, more than twice the previous estimate, government officials said Monday. The Health and Welfare Ministry officials said the latest estimate involved hospitals treating patients who were not haemophiliacs, raising fears of increased cases of the human immune-deficiency virus (HIV) among such patients. While the ministry has not confirmed the number of deaths of non-hemophiliac patients treated with unheated blood products, some 2,000 of Japan's 4,500 hemophiliacs contracted HIV from tainted blood products in the early 1980s. About 400 of them have since died from AIDS.